

몽연 현대 판타지 소설

라이프 미션



KW

Life Mission

– 라이프 미션 –

- Volume 2 -

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[LightNovelCafe (Myoniyoni Translations)]

Chapter 33

“The life I saved, I’ll take it again.”

“That’s true, but I can’t let you do that. It seems too early to die.”

Campbell raised his fist. He was holding a grenade with its pin pulled.

“I pulled it when I heard you call me. That young friend of yours over there is aiming at me, right? If this goes off, you won’t be safe either.”

Cha Jun Sung clenched his teeth. He is cunning to have prepared such a thing.

“Ke ke! That expression is great even though it isn’t as good as the one people show when they’re dying.”

Campbell covered his face and laughed. His eyes showed through his fingers.

‘He seems familiar.’

Something had been bothering him. Campbell’s strange tone that is half formal and half informal, seems to overlap with someone but he cannot remember who that is.

Cha Jun Sung watched Campbell and tried to give Park Jin Hyuk the signal.

“No no! Don’t move.”

“Keuk!”

“The moment you give a signal, I’ll let this go off. I’ll only be caught off guard once.”

Cha Jun Sung stopped moving at Campbell’s warning. They are not even 5m apart. Even if he does not die when the grenade goes off, he would come out with serious wounds.

‘Jin Hyuk, shoot him. Shoot.’

He sent the signal in his mind. Jin Hyuk is fast to catch on. Cha Jun Sung willed him to shoot Campbell in the head.



Park Jin Hyuk squinted as he looked at Campbell laughing from afar. It looked like he is the culprit, but Cha Jun Sung is not giving the signal.

“What’s going on?”

When Campbell covered his face with his hand, his other hand came up and Park Jin Hyuk could see that it held a round object through the scope. It is a grenade without its pin.

He had not seen what was in Campbell’s hand because he had been focusing on getting a signal. Campbell had turned his back with the grenade in his hand.

“This is driving me crazy.”

It is an ambiguous moment. The decision is all up to Park Jin Hyuk. Anyone in this situation would be conflicted. He cannot reverse a decision made on bad judgment.

“If that goes off, Jun Sung will be hit too. Will his body and equipment be able to handle it?”

Kiik!

Park Jin Hyuk’s finger pressed on the trigger. Slowly, so Campbell would not be able to sense it.

If he reacts when he hears the sound, it will be too late. Once his head is hit, he will lose strength and the grenade will go off within a few seconds. There is just sand, with nothing to find cover in.

In that time, how far would Cha Jun Sung be able to get away in order to minimize damages?

“Die.”

Tang!

The bullet is shot. Campbell dies. Park Jin Hyuk did not doubt this would happen. Cha Jun Sung would use his speed from the 1st stage of body modifications to get away.

Puk!

He is hit by the bullet and he falls without strength. With that, Cha Jun Sung runs. But something is weird. Through the scope, Campbell is looking at Park Jin Hyuk and laughing.



While Campbell watched Cha Jun Sung, he was aware of Park Jin Hyuk's movements.

He could be prepared for Cha Jun Sung in any way. Park Jin Hyuk on the other hand is far away and there is nothing he can do to him. If Campbell misses a change in his behavior, he is dead. S

A feeling.

It is a distance that he cannot see from even with twice the sight, but Campbell got a feeling that Park Jin Hyuk's finger was moving on the trigger.

He could not be sure. He just felt like it could be. The behavior of a person whose life is threatened?

It is just his last attempt to live. Campbell had the feeling that Park Jin Hyuk was going to shoot him and tilted his body slightly. At the same moment, a shot from the rifle rang the ocean.

As Campbell fell, he threw the grenade past Cha Jun Sung's head.

Instead of going farther from the grenade, Cha Jun Sung had become even closer to it. He thought that Campbell would drop it nearby, but had not expected him to throw it.

Bang!

As the grenade explodes, countless pieces of shrapnel flew out. Cha Jun Sung protected his entire body with his heavily shielded arms and legs.

Bang!

The bomb exploded again.

The fortunate thing was that it was not a bomb for attack, but a smoke shell.

“Jun Sung!”

Park Jin Hyuk held his SMG and ran. He did not care if Campbell was alive. If Cha Jun Sung was hurt, they needed to return right away and receive treatment.

“He, he didn’t die.”

“Let’s hurry up and go back!”

Dozens of shrapnel fragments were embedded in his arms and legs. Blood gushed from his wounds. His bones must have broken while his skin was ripped because he could not put strength in them.

“What about Campbell?”

“I can’t tell what happened to him because he set a smoke shell off.”

“He’ll be alive. He tilted his body before the shot and got out of range.”

“Ugh! You’re right. I’m at a disadvantage like this, so there’s nothing I can do.”

Park Jin Hyuk pointed the SMG around them. It is Campbell’s voice. He could not see him because of all of the smoke.

“You... I’ll kill you the next time I see you.”

That’s what I should be saying. If it had been a warning from trash, I would have laughed it off, but I anticipate it because you seem to be skilled.”

Campbell must be activating his return because his voice was becoming distant.

“I’ll be leaving first.”

The sound of blowing air from the mouth. When Cha Jun Sung heard that sound that the guy had made when they met in Life Mission, his pupils grew larger.

That tone and madness, the sound from his mouth upon leaving. He remembered.

“Blood King?”

“Who are you?”

Papat!

Campbell was shocked. He had returned before they could discuss. That is how Cha Jun Sung and Campbell separated after leaving strong impressions.

“Blood King?”

“I’ll tell you when we get back.”

He could explain the situation to Park Jin Hyuk when they got back. Cha Jun Sung realized that other Lifers were catching up to his rapid growth.



Campbell returns and looks weak as he goes over the situation just now.

He earned a lot from this mission. He had gone through all of his points for body modification, but he earned 20,000 points upon completing Field of Meat.

The mutant hunting points and reward points were generous, but the 5,000 points he got from killing Lloyd could not be ignored.

Lifer hunting.

The secret to Campbell’s points. If you kill a Lifer, you are given 10% of their holdings. It is an easy way to gain points? That is a common misconception that people have.

It’s a double-edged sword with high risk. You could kill someone, but you could be killed if something goes wrong. There are things that Lifer hunters need to keep in mind.

1. Avoid full parties.

To kill a full party of 10, 9 people excluding myself? There is no chance of winning if

fighting face to face. Defeating them individually is also difficult because of the numbers.

If there is no way to avoid going into a full party, it is better to gather murderers together but it is not a recommended method.

They are a team but murderers are also enemies. You do not know when they might stab you in the back. Campbell had gone into Field of Meat with a team, but all of the members had died at his hand.

2. Know your opponent well.

Make a distinction in strength and only catch the weak guys. If he had followed Cha Jun Sung instead of Lloyd's people, he would not have come back alive.

If the party you go into only has strong people? You need to hide your intentions.

3. Do not leave any survivors.

If you become known as a murderer and your face is posted, there will be restrictions to your movements. If you do not have the confidence to see it through until the end, do not start at all.

Of the three precautions, Campbell broke the 3rd. The bigger problem is that Cha Jun Sung knows who he is.

Blood King.

That is his nickname in the virtual version of Life Mission.

There are a lot of ways to change his identity in the virtual version. No one can recognize him by his looks. Then how did Cha Jun Sung identify him? It had been through his actions.

"I know it too. That kind of person can't just be a minnow."

Blood King is included in the top of the 36 people ranked in breaking through the 36 nightmares. Someone who could recognize him through his actions had to have been

someone at a similar ranking whom he had met often. It could be that he is wrong, but his intuition said that this is right.

“There’s no special characteristic. A special characteristic.”

His body modification is weak and he does not have a unique weapon. Campbell’s pride was hurt. His opponent had recognized him, but he could not recognize his opponent.

It is difficult to figure him out from his appearance, but there will be a special characteristic if he looks for one.

He needs to find his tail. There are rankers who reveal themselves. Whoever he is, Campbell had a basic knowledge of who is he.

“It’s because he doesn’t have full potential now, but I’ll be able to tell who he is when I see his battle style. I have no doubt that he enjoys the melee. Was the weapon on his belt a katana?”

Katana.

Sword.

In Campbell’s memory, there are 2 Lifers among the rankers who use swords.

Korea’s Overload.

China’s Chammadogaek.

Chammadogaek is also strong, but he cannot stand his ground against Overload who is in 1st place.

He is strong and grand. Even Campbell who was 1st place in PK lost against him.

“That’s right. Overload was Korean, right? Then he would recognize me.”

It is not something to be surprised by. It was right to have met someone among the 36 rankers in Life Mission by now.

“It feels like I’m at a disadvantage... but I’ll be satisfied with having memorized your

face.”

If they meet again to fight, he would win then. For now, he needs to focus on growing and finding Blood King’s force again.

“We’ll meet again.”

Campbell fell asleep. He is not an exception to being tired.

Chapter 34

Chullung.

Wine sloshed back and forth in a luxurious crystal glass. The man holding the glass was middle-aged and full of grace.

“Father. Field of Meat disappeared from the mission list.”

“I heard.”

Duke Venter’s voice is monotonous. It disappeared on the list. This meant the mission had been completed. But Carlyle has not returned.

“Our sister or I needed to go with him.”

“Do you think it is right to keep following him around and doing everything for him?”

“He was not strong enough.”

“He wasn’t. That’s why we needed to make him stronger. Even if by force.”

A tiger cub is a tiger. But even a cat is excessive for Carlyle. Duke Venter tried to raise him as a tiger, but this is what had happened.

“Leave.”

“Okay.”

As Brayburke left the office, a voice sounded,

“Sorry dear. We lost our youngest.”

When he heard this, Brayburke clenched his fist and closed the door. Even a top authority of England is just a father.

“Brother.”

“Isabel.”

A beautiful blonde woman in her mid-20s was waiting for Brayburke outside the office. She is the only daughter among 3 children.

“An idiot went like an idiot.”

“Yeah.”

Carlyle was a brother with a lot of shortcomings. He always got into trouble and there was not a part of him they liked, but that did not change the fact that he is the youngest of the 3 siblings.

“What do you think the problem was?”

“I don’t know.”

“There are a lot of variables. There’s no way to pinpoint one as the culprit.”

The mission was completed, but Carlyle and the Special Forces members were unable to return. Since the result was decided, the affair is now what is important – how he died.

“Was he killed by a mutant, or by an outside force?”

“If it’s the latter?”

“Revenge I guess.”

They had been unable to keep their mother’s last will to protect their youngest brother. Just by making them go against this will, the culprit deserves to die.

Carlyle had told them – 3 Americans, 1 Japanese, and 2 Koreans. If they even found one person, they could figure out what the situation was. One of those people could also be the culprit.

“I’m ready to go. Are you going to go?”

“I’m going.”

Brayburke took various kinds of weapons from his space compression bag and equipped his body. There were a lot like a sword, spear, dagger, and hatchet.

He and Isabel armed themselves and went out into the garden of the mansion. 8 Special Forces members were standing in a line, waiting for them.

“We’re going in.”

“Attention!”

[Approved. You are being transferred to Bone Mountain, Level E advance mission. Mission start.]

Brayburke, Isabel, and the 8 Special Forces members entered the mission.

Brayburke Venter.

In reality, he is second to Duke Venter, but he is one of the 36 rankers and England’s weapon master.



[Over 10,000 official figures of Korea are missing. It is said that only those revealed to be missing around the world reaches 400,000.]

Cha Jun Sung sat on a bench downtown and watched the news televised on a large sign. They are all victims of Life Mission.

Nearby, hundreds of other people watched the news and whispered. With time, Life Mission’s existence is becoming known.

“Has the stupid Korean government still not been able to figure out what Life Mission is?”

“It makes sense.”

“Our country is like that.”

Cha Jun Sung thought that the government knew the situation and was neglecting it.

The person right next to him is also a Lifer. The reality version of Life Mission is spreading like a virus. He does not have to say anything for it to reveal itself.

People need to figure it out for themselves. If he gets involved, he could get implicated for nothing.

“That’s a funny anchor.”

The mark left on the wrist from a PDA, that anchor is also a Lifer. He must have taken it off for the authenticity of the news, but tons of people had already caught on.

1 or 2 out of 100 people on the street had PDAs on their wrists. Just because they took them off because they are detachable does not mean that they are not still Lifers.

Hm!

It was not far now. Within a month, the confusion would be gone.

When that happens, the reality version of Life Mission will dissolve into modern society like sugar dissolves in water. It will be natural as though it had always existed.

“Anyway, why is he so late? He’s completely ignoring the time we promised.”

Cha Jun Sung was waiting for someone. A few days ago, he put up a post on Lifer World that he was selling the booty he found in Field of Meat.

There had been a lot of comments, but he chose to sell to a fellow Korean. They had agreed to meet at 1 o’clock, but no one has appeared for 20 minutes.

“Mr. Odin?”

He heard a delicate voice. A beautiful woman in glasses was standing in front of him. People’s attention focused their attention on her because she was so pretty.

“You’re late.”

“Sorry. Something suddenly came up and I didn’t have a way to get in contact with you.”

When she bowed her head, the picture he had drawn came apart. Cha Jun Sung felt

himself in the wrong. Since it is of the past, he did not hold a grudge.

“Since there are a lot of people here, let’s go somewhere else.”

“There’s a place I saw on the way here.”

She took the lead and Cha Jun Sung followed. The curves of her body hidden under her suit are a form of art. He would not be bored on their way.



The place she brought them to is the top of a new commercial construction site. The security is tight. 6 security guards are blocking people from entering.

“Let me introduce myself. I’m Jung Hye Ryung of the virtual department of Chilsung Group.”

“What?”

“The virtual department.”

“There are all types of departments now.”

“Life Mission is a next generation business that can bring in vast profits, so Chilsung Group has already contracted many Lifers.”

Lifers are not able to do everything. If the top company in Korea supports them with items, they can expect growth at a much faster rate.

They receive support and fulfill a request in return. It is mutual aid.

“No wonder you beat the others’ prices. Chilsung was moving.”

The government and large companies are the two ranges of public and private organizations. Chilsung Group, with dozens of subsidiaries, is one of the world’s 100 groups.

There is not a company in Korea that will fight with money against Chilsung Group. Since government assets are made from citizen taxes, its use for personal reasons is limited.

On the other hand, the chairman of Chilsung Group ranks 30 on personal assets alone on Forbes. With all of the members combined, they exceed 50. No one can beat them with money.

“Can I see the items?”

“Of course.”

Cha Jun Sung took items out from the space compression bag. There was a pistol, machine gun, sniper rifle, automatic crossbow, ammunition case, parachute, GPS, et cetera.

They are the items of dozens of people. He had brought everything including what Park Jin Hyuk brought. There was quite a considerable amount. This could arm 2 parties.

“Is that bag a space compression bag?”

“Yes.”

Jun Hye Ryung’s eyes became ecstatic and looked at it as though it were a brand name bag.

A whopping 50,000 points.

Even she had only ever seen it once because it is the most expensive item in the Level E store. To think that there is another Lifer who purchased this.

“Because there’s nowhere to hide this. If I’m caught by enforcement with this in my car, I’ll be arrested or I’ll have to go through investigation, and it’s too heavy for me to even carry.”

He was not trying to be mysterious, but there is no good in revealing it either. He was thinking of using a big bag, but had chosen a space compression bag for various reasons.

“Do you have any thoughts of selling it? We’ll match whatever price you ask for.”

Of course she would want it.

He did not necessarily need it for the class E he would complete in a few days, but it will definitely be an item that he needs as he goes to higher missions.

Even if it is just the best item sold in level E.

“Money is just useless paper in Life Mission.”

It is just a fraction compared to Chilsung Group, but before he had enough wealth to buy the entire store even became a Lifer.

It may be different if something better comes along, but he would not sell it even for millions of dollars.

“Ah ah.”

Jung Hye Ryung thought it a pity.

The Lifers under contract with Chilsung Group were still new. But it was fine because money could compensate what experience they lacked. But this guy Odin is different and has gone far ahead as an expert. She needed to learn more.

Chapter 35

“Please excuse my rudeness.”

“No, it’s okay.”

“How did you get these items? Did you buy them with your points?”

Cha Jun Sung smiled gently so that Jung Hye Ryung would not get the wrong idea. There is no crazy Lifer who would buy items with points to sell them.

They sell items when they no longer need them or if they come across them by coincidence as Cha Jun Sung did.

“They were gathered in a mutant nest.”

“There are store item numbers, but does that mean that many Lifers died?”

Items are classified into two groups. Ones that were bought in the store or ones found while going through a mission. The difference is in the product number.

“Since there were 3 survivors in 4 parties with 40 people, 37 people died.”

“Goodness!”

Jung Hye Ryung’s eyes widened in surprise. If 37 people went in and died in parties instead of solo, she could guess the difficulty level.

“And purchasing them?”

“Ah! They’re the point pricing decided in the group. Please check.”

The competent employees at Chilsung Group had created appropriate pricing.

Jung Hye Ryung showed him the prices written out simply. He had heard of the approximate prices on Lifer World, but seeing them is different.

The situation is different when selling items worth hundreds of points instead of 1 point. Of course an item is more expensive.

300 points is \$45,000.

400 points is \$64,000.

500 points is \$85,000.

This is how the price of points rises. The most expensive items that Cha Jun Sung brought are the 1000-point machine gun and sniper rifle.

If he sells the booty he discovered in Field of Meat, he would get hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is quite easy to make money. To someone with nothing, Life Mission is a way of life.

“Let’s do it.”

“That’s an excellent decision.”

Jung Hye Ryung looked satisfied. The items that she buys from Cha Jun Sung would become a way to develop the Chilsung Group. Life is a step.

If they arm 2 parties and go in a 1500-point mission, it would be a tremendous help to the guild founded by Chilsung Group/

Jung Hye Ryung handed a bag of money that was under the table.

“We rounded the last digit up and it is \$25 million.”

“Thank you. The number makes it easy to split with my friend.”

“Do you have someone with you?”

-[Zephyrus, put your gun down.]

-[Yes.]

Park Jin Hyuk’s voice came out of the PDA. As a means of contact like a cellphone, it is the type that trades points.

When Jung Hye Ryung finally understood the situation, there were shivers down her spine.

“My friend is a sniper.”

“He was aiming here.”

“I had to leave everything covered because we need to meet in person in order to make a deal.”

How could he go out unarmed without knowing what kind of person would show up? Since he cannot walk the streets with his equipment on him, he needed to do this at least.

-[Aim at this woman in front of me for a second.]

-[Yay!]

A red dot showed up on her stomach. Jung Hye Ryung gulped when she saw it. If she had done something wrong, there would have been a hole in her pretty face.

“I did something rude.”

“Since I did the same thing just now, we’ll call it even.”

It seemed she was talking about the space compression bag.

“As an apology, I’ll answer one of your questions.”

“Anything?”

“I’d like to if possible, but only what I know since I don’t know everything.”

Cha Jun Sung put the bag with the money in his space compression bag. Even as he prepared to leave, Jung Hye Ryung was only thinking about what to ask him.

“I don’t know how to ask you because I don’t know what you do and don’t know.”

“I know everything about level E missions.”

“Are you joking?”

Jung Hye Ryung’s expression hardened. Level E goes up to 3000 points. Until now, the only attack missions were Field of Meat and Bone Mountain with just a few others.

“Looking at the weapons you’re buying, I assume you’re trying to make a full 10 person party concentrated on 1000-1500 points and your goal is 3000 points?”

“How did you know that!”

“Are you going to stay at level E forever? You need to go up quickly and advance.”

Jung Hye Ryung had said that Life Mission would become the next generation of business with huge profits. Even if it is for the reward points, they will fill it up completely to go out.

With the proper weapons, 2 people could complete a 1000 point mission. As they go through, they will not be able to help but become ambitious and aim for higher.

“There are over 1000 mutants in Level 1 and close to 20 in Level 2. If each individual Lifer can’t break through 1000 points, don’t even try.”

Cha Jun Sung say goodbye to Jung Hye Ryung and walked toward the exit.

“Is that information with evidence?”

“3 survivors among 40 people – that mission is Field of Meat.”

Cha Jun Sung opened the door and left. Jung Hye Ryung who had been standing blankly understood what that meant and quickly followed him out, but he had already disappeared.

Jung Hye Ryung had seen it. Under Cha Jun Sung’s sleeve, there were impact tights worth 15,000 points. No wonder his body looked bulky.

With the space compression bag, he had only shown her 2 pieces of equipment, but even those total 65,000 points.

In a mission setting, how good is he? She could not be 100% sure, but he could really be the person who completed Field of Meat.

“Helper name Odin, level D Lifer who recently completed an advance mission. Since he said he had someone with him, does that mean there are 2 people just in Korea? I need to report this.”

It is worth reporting.

Chapter 36

The Blue House.

The heart of Korea where the president lives. 2 visitors came to this place where not even senior officials could enter without permission.

“Mr. President, the Chief of Staff is here.”

“Send him in.”

When the Chief Secretary opened the door, the Army Chief of Staff with 4 stars on his hat and the Captain with 3 diamonds entered the President’s office.

“Attention!”

“Welcome. I was waiting for you.”

The President welcomed them both. It was a light atmosphere where it felt like he would ask how they are, but the reason for their meeting is not light.

For an hour, entry into the Blue House is banned.

Not even the Prime Minister would be able to enter. Dozens of security guards and soldiers were outside the office.

“So this is him.”

“Yes! He is very talented and placed 1st in the exam for Lifer skills in the entire army. He even surpassed the soldiers who are UDT Lifers.”

The President observed the man in his mid-30s. With his 190cm height and strong physique, he seemed invincible.

“Captain! Han Chang Jin!”

“I am familiar with the basic information through the report from the Chief Secretary.

For a brief summary, you are saying that you would like to figure out the issue in the army first?”

Months had already passed since Life Mission became reality. As Cha Jun Sung had expected, the government had already completely identified the situation.

“Sir, do you believe that you will be able to control Lifers?”

The President shook his head. There is no way that he would be able to control them personally.

Even super power America was looking into each Lifer’s identity and mollifying them one by one. Clear measures do not come out for Korea.

“Korea’s land and population are small. If we lead the army, we can protect the nation from Lifers with rogue intentions.”

What if a criminal is a Lifer? What if there is no personnel to control these people? Even for an old man, becoming lawless only takes moments.

Sword possession permit?

Firearm possession permit?

It had been a long time since such formal documents had just become pieces of paper. As long as one has the points, they can go shopping for all of the firearms they desire.

Countries have been forced into situations where they need to take measures for national security but as time passes, nations are bound to form unions because they will grow as they combine.

“We’ve seen movements from large companies to create private organizations as well.”

“I know that as well. I am just not doing anything because there is no way to sanction the laws. Within a few months, there will be laws established regarding Lifers.”

If they could not force them, they could place sanctions. They cannot just let Lifers act freely.

“Countries are also trying to create army units made of Lifers.”

The start may be humble, but the goal is to increase the personnel and make it a symbol of Korea, while placing his son, Han Chang Jin, as the Commanding Officer.

This is not because it is his son. Han Chang Jin is a great soldier and Lifer.

He is patriotic and is skilled enough to complete 1500 point missions alone. If he leads Lifers, he will establish his place quickly.

“What extent of treatment are you thinking?”

“I was hoping for the most benefits and precedence that the country can offer.”

“Since we cannot decide it specifically here, I’ll meet you separately.”

The President finished speaking and looked at Han Chang Jin. It seems there is something he wants to say.

“I don’t know this Life Mission game because I have never done it but if it is as the report says, Captain Han was a very famous Lifer.”

Iron King Han Chang Jin.

Like Cha Jun Sung, he was one of the 36 rankers who surpassed the nightmares. Of course he had a separate ID, but he was just called Iron King in the second half.

“It is a meaningless virtual name, President!”

“Even if it is virtual, strictly speaking it is training for reality.”

“Yes, sir!”

“Then I’m sure the other 35 rankers will have achieved what you have?”

Han Chang Jin hesitated in answering the President. The two worlds are different. There is no guarantee that the abilities from the virtual version are manifested in reality.

But.

“If someone’s name is among the rankers, they will be active somewhere.”

The monsters he remembered would be laughing as they ripped mutants apart.

“How many are there in Korea?”

“There are 3 people including me.”

“Are you able to contact them?”

“I would be able to find Ghost Gun through acquaintances, but Overload is difficult.”

Han Chang Jin felt embarrassment as he said the names aloud. He is over 30 years old and saying things like Iron King, Ghost Gun, and Overload like it is a children’s cartoon.

“Ah!”

“What is it?”

“Overload has a blog.”

“Blog?”

“Yes. That is where he writes his know-how on matters like strategy and weapons. If we find the blog and track the IP address... we could find him.”

Han Chang Jin swallowed his last words. Tracking an IP address is illegal. It is not looked kindly upon if someone is being tracked.

“Don’t you think there would be an understanding as it is for the country?”

“President, are you thinking of him as a member of the Lifer unit?”

“If he is as great of a Lifer as he is in the game.”

“He likes to play the game solo. He went around by himself inside the game as well. I can tell you for certain that he will not agree to it.”

To start, the way they are trying to find him is wrong. Even if it takes time, they need to find him in a normal way in order to maintain a relationship.

“There’s no reason to get ahead of ourselves. We can talk about that issue later and

establish the Lifer unit first. As the President, I approve it.”

“Yes, sir!”

“Yes, sir!”

The father and son saluted. Just as large companies were trying to form private organizations, the government is preparing to defend the nation.



The Director of the U.S. CIA had been under pressure for 2 months now because of an order from the top. No matter how much he investigated, the situation was not resolved.

He was so stressed that his hair was falling out.

“Until when do I need to monitor this? Something needs to come out in order for me to investigate.”

“There really isn’t anything?”

“No, it’s clean. It’s as if an alien came to Earth for a moment and disappeared. All information regarding Life Inc. evaporated.”

Life Inc.

It is a company that appeared 10 years ago and released Life Mission that was like a nuclear storm. This monster game broke countless records.

While it was running, there was never a time when it lost its 1st place position in the game ranking, and it accomplished reaching over 100 million subscribers.

Even now when all traces of it are gone, it is the center of controversy – a secret. Does this make sense? They were not satisfied with the game and made a reality version.

The director was implementing the order to investigate Life Inc. with dozens of agents.

The headquarters of Life Inc. was erected in the center of U.S. Washington DC. The greatest gaming company in the world was operating from a mere 10 story building.

“300 employees disappeared at the same time. We cannot search their identities and they do not have families. No one has seen them since May 9, 2020 either.”

Life Inc. was a strange company from the start. It appeared unexpectedly as if it had fallen from the sky, and it cruised by from then without any problems.

They had 100 million cumulative users, and they always had more than 10 million current users at any given time.

In a state where they had such a strong fan base, if someone just calls for a fee, they would see astronomical profits that large companies could not even speak of.

If they put an advertisement up through the game? The profits increase even more. It is a goose that lays golden eggs. But Life Inc. did not have anything like that.

They offered the game for free and they kept a distance from actions that would bring in profits. They just left the game to become what it may because there were no bugs either.

Money hungry authorities and enterprises made huge efforts to create smooth relationships with Life Inc. in any way they could, but it was all in vain.

When they shook it, not even dust came out. When they set traps, it did not get caught.

Who could have known that gaming company success story Life Mission would create such a fiasco? If they want to find the cause of the reality version, they need to find anyone whether it is the Life Inc. employees or executives.

“This is driving me nuts.”

“I think it’ll be better to pretend you’re searching and to ignore the orders. Nothing comes out no matter how much we dig. It’s not like we can make information up.”

The director sat at his desk and massaged his face. It is easy in words, but the pressure he is receiving in reality is not something he wants to suffer again.

Even if he cannot implement the order, he does not have a problem because he gave it his best. However, that is a cause for being criticized that he cannot do his job properly.

Ring!

A phone rang with a text message. The agent looked at the director. It is discourteous to check his phone without permission from his supervisor.

“Check it. It could be important.”

“Yes.”

The agent took out his phone and checked his message.

[2nd preliminary Lifer selection complete.] [Selection criteria: random 0.1% of men and women from all over the world in their 20s-40s.]

“Huh?”

“What is it?”

The agent just blinked and gave his cellphone to the director.

“2nd preliminary Lifer selection? Hey! Hurry up and track the sender to find the location!”

If they track the text, they can find the person who sent it as well as the location that it was sent from.

They are going to find it even if they need to dig through the ground in the middle of a desert. The CIA became busy. A clue they had been so longing for had appeared and they needed to go with it as much as they could.

Ring!

This time, the director’s phone rang. It was a call, not a text. He subconsciously checked the caller and became tense.

“I understand.”

The director’s tone was serious. The agents could feel that something was off.

“Call all agents who receive a selection text going forward. If you are working, bring him to me even if you need to employ someone else.”

“Who is it that you are being like this?”

“The White House secretary office.”

The agents did not ask questions and left right away. If it is the White House secretary office, it would be the Chief Secretary and the person who had moved him is the President.

August 2, 2020, 5pm.

After the 1st preliminary Lifer selection, the 2nd preliminary Lifer selection began.

Chapter 37

1st preliminary Lifer selection, half a year has passed since the reality version of Life Mission was started. It seems as though 3 months had passed with the 2nd round standards.

How had the world changed? It had changed a lot. Since the number of people going in was increasing, they began to understand on their own without anyone telling them.

The people who are selected become Lifers and go into the game.

They kill mutants and complete missions to earn points. Then they can purchase items that can be of help or that have value, from the store.

People see those that are worth money as the most important.

The sweet reward received in exchange for the unidentified reason for creating Life Mission or the problems that arise from this, is trivial.

It is the harm of a capitalist society's only thought that I need to succeed as an individual. It did not matter whether others died, and these kinds of situations grew worse with time.

The world is changing with the benefits provided by an unknown market.

Because the Lifers who started early, have an advantage with points, they could sell their items for hundreds of thousands of dollars.

An unusual path had opened for even the underdogs of society with nothing to live in prosperity if they were just good at killing mutants.

The people who had not been chosen as Lifers in the 1st and 2nd rounds envied those who had been and wished and wished for an opportunity in the 3rd round.



Vroom!

An impressive BMW I8 rides the road. Its red body is sensual and tough at the same time. It is a sports car launched this year for \$200,000.

Youths gazed at the car as though examining it. All had their respective thoughts.

They thought it was no big deal, envied him, or were jealous. There were a lot of other thoughts on the car, but these were the leading ones.

The car was parked next to the Han River. The weather had become chilly because it is December, but there were a lot of people regardless of gender and age.

People's faces were flushed. Not because it is cold, but because it is warm. To feel warmth in this weather? There is a reason for that.

Wiing.

The car doors went up like wings and the owner of the car came out. It is Cha Jun Sung, a handsome man with looks fitting for a sports car.

"Insulating long johns are good. People are moving so actively."

Insulating long johns that holds inner body temperature while blocking out cold air are sold for 10 points in the store.

For some time, the bulk distribution of store products through Lifers working with major companies have had an impact on the public.

Harmless items like medicine that stops bleeding and makes the wound scab as soon as it is applied, and odorless spray that gets rid of all smells were among them.

They were expensive, but very useful once purchased. They do their money's worth. With the large population, they sold quickly.

The products in a class E store is at this standard. The items in class D have not yet been revealed, but they could have an effect on electronics later.

A cyborg that can only be seen in movies might roam the streets.

The government and major companies are taking these items that surpass modern science, deconstructing them and trying to grasp the principles of them.

“Look here. It’s another shooting accident.”

“Even if laws have been strengthened, there are so many crazy people. It’s an apocalypse.”

A young couple passed Cha Jun Sung’s car. They were looking at the news on their smartphone and discussing it.

As much as Life Mission and the store have had a positive impact on the world, they have had negative effects as well. Effects like the shooting accident being reported on the smartphone.

There is no way to determine the state of firearm possession without searching through millions of people. They can buy whatever they want from the store as long as they have the points.

Crime rates had surged 150% from last year. A professional burglar needs a gun but if that is hard, there is the automatic crossbow. They are going crazy.

The shocking part is that Lifers themselves are quiet, but it is the general public that is going around doing these things. They were expressing their frustration with not being chosen in crime.

One month ago, a law targeting Lifers was enacted. It ordered them to enroll as Lifers while paying taxes as citizens.

\$100,000 in taxes every year. As it is impossible to calculate exactly how much Lifers make in profits, a sum of money had been decided.

A Lifer earns \$100,000 by completing a 300 point mission. The government had chosen an amount that is not burdensome and instead low. After the law was enacted, there was almost no protest to it.

The next part, the national registry. On the outside, it looks like it is just a Lifer license like an identification card or driver’s license, but it is not at all on the inside.

There is the sneaky ulterior motive to track the number of Lifers and watch them with various goals like migration.

Cha Jun Sung did not see it in a negative way. There was a trend of private organizations popping up everywhere. If they are not managed, they might become lawless.

However, the taxing and registry have common problems.

They need to enroll in order to pay their taxes? This meant that they do not need to pay if they are unregistered. The government expected this transgression and put a powerful restriction in place.

-[Lifers are a potential threat to the well-being of the country.]

-[If law enforcement catches an unregistered Lifer completing missions, it is punishable with 5 years of community service.]

It did not mean that they would receive punishment for 5 years but that they would act as a Lifer for the state.

Then what would happen to a Lifer who is registered, but does not like missions and wants to give up the privilege? How could he manage the \$100,000 tax?

Nothing has been revealed in detail, but the government is in the process of creating a program for these kinds of Lifers. They will do well as it is a great power.

“Now that I’m here, my mood is better.”

Today, Cha Jun Sung shut down the blog that he had run for 10 years. He did not delete it completely, but placed a lock on it so that only he would have access to it.

Once the reality version was introduced, the number of visitors gradually decreased and starting a few days ago, it did not even go over 30,000. There were still a lot, but it had diminished.

Of course, advertisements had dropped off one by one. It was not like nothing was left, but Cha Jun Sung called the advertisers himself to take them down.

He got the sense that the advertisers were in favor of this in their voices. He was able

to take care of it within minutes because he was solving a dilemma they had due to their contract period.

The virtual version of Life Mission was dead. The age of the reality version has come. He does not care about money. He felt strange because the blog had been like an alter ego.

-[Where are you?]

-[Han River. Are you done with the mission?]

-[1500 points is easy. I want to go into a 3000 point mission, but I'm scared.]

-[It'll be dangerous because you have distance.]

-[Huk! To say that you can do it but I can't! I should just fold and do something else.]

A few months after doing Field of Meat, Cha Jun Sung's skills had advanced so much that he was capable of completing advance missions by himself. It is the power of the 2nd stage of body modifications.

Park Jin Hyuk went through the 2nd stage as well, but going alone was dangerous because his basic aptitude was low. He could guess what would be said next.

-[Now is it level D?]

-[Yeah.]

-[The easiest preview is 5000 points, but how strong do you think a level 3 will be?]

Cha Jun Sung has fought the Evil Queen before. Compared to level 9, level 3 would be like less than the dirt on his foot, but it is a fearsome monster in reality.

-[It'll be separated by what style they are.]

-[Mind or body?]

-[Right.]

The combat style of mutant are split into two. The type that uses skill to make up for

its weak body. The type that is purely physical in pushing forward.

The ones that use their heads use poison or stealth, but whatever it is has shortcomings. Therefore, Park Jin Hyuk could face them as long as they prepare well.

With those that use physical strength however, failure is inevitable unless one has gone through the 3rd stage of body modification.

-[Do you know what Slayer is?]

Chapter 38

-[Slayer?]

It seems he does not know. Park Jin Hyuk had not been in the virtual version for even half a year.

Unlike Cha Jun Sung who started in South America, his starting point was Asia. Slayers do not appear in Asia.

-[That's a disgusting bastard. If even 2 gather, they can fight 3 Evil Bloodsuckers.]

-[What! But Evil Bloodsuckers are at the top of Level 3!]

-[Opinions are divided, but I see Slayers as the strongest in Level 3.]

They are fast and sharp. That is Cha Jun Sung's assessment of Slayers.

Its body is two or three times the size of a person's, its legs are abnormally long, arms are sickles like a mantis', and it's fast enough to make someone pass out.

It may be possible with an ambush, but it is impossible to hit with an automatic crossbow. It may or may not work with a gun either. It moves to get out of the way before the shot goes off.

Its thin skin is a flaw, but if its skin was thick and even had guarding properties, it would have gone over to Level 4. This is the type that uses pure physical strength.

-[If we combine our strength, we'll be able to fight with 1 Slayer, right?]

-[If it's in a wide space.]

He could not guarantee it. One of the two of them would die. It could be that both do.

-[Are we going to go as a party?]

-[It is our first attempt, so don't you think it'll be better to go in as part of a raid?]

It is not like he is looking for wealth, so they must go in and take a look with the thought that it is a quest.

If they go in together and fall into an unfavorable situation, they can only quit the mission. It is better to earn less points and join a raid operated by the guild.

Most private organizations cannot go out because they are blocked at 3000 points but when viewed globally, there are many people who have gone into Level D.

Is their equipment better than Cha Jun Sung's? The answer comes out just from looking at a Level E mission. The difference between 2 people completing it and 10 is 5 times the points.

If the number of people who enter Level D goes from 10 to 100 people, it goes from a party to a force. They are making up for the lack of skills with equipment.

The word is that if a private Lifer goes into a guild raid, there are a lot of opportunities to take all of the points with few casualties in situations that are not dangerous.

This is why even if the rewards are great, people are unable to gather enough points to go through body modification as Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk did. It is fortunate if they even get to complete the 1st stage.

-[Have you decided on a place?]

-[Hocheon.]

-[If you say Hocheon, are you talking about Daeho Group? Their reputation is bad... It'll be alright, right?]

Daeho Group is one of the 10 groups. Their ranking is at 8? Since they completed this advance mission, they could be expected to make an attempt at Level D.

Rumors say that several major companies shed a lot of blood and each completed Level D, but the number of casualties exceeded 60.

Daeho Group is on the late side. Enterprises do not like to lose. It is inevitable that they will become impatient in trying to catch up. They could be followed then.

-[Since there are a lot of people going in, I guess it'll be genocide if we don't command

properly.]

-[Strangely, major companies don't have patience. I don't know if it's an issue with guilds or with alliances, but they rush into assault. That's why so many of them die.]

They are armed with good weapons like limited SMGs and sent into missions. It seems their strategy is to blindly run in since there is an unending supply of Lifers.

3 months have flown by since Cha Jun Sung completed Field of Meat. He only looked at Level D missions. He felt that he was too lacking.

The standard for making an attempt at a challenge is whether or not he is able to fight a Level 3 alone.

After preparing for 3 months, he finally felt like he was qualified. He found new Lifers who went into missions recklessly daft and pathetic.

-[Rest for a few days. I'll contact you.]

-[You relax too.]

They ended the call. Soon, Daeho Group would be recruiting Lifers entering Level D. They would need to complete simple missions while examining the situation until then.

Kyak!

People gather in. While Cha Jun Sung was leaning on his car, locked in his thoughts, there was a fuss not far from him.

"You bitch! I fed you, gave you a place to sleep, and gave you clothes to wear and you cheat on me?"

"Honey! That's not what happened!"

"Shut up!"

A Lifer holding a crossbow was glaring at a man with a woman while aiming at them.

He looked as though he would kill both of them.

Cha Jun Sung slowly moved in among the people. A crossbow show at Han River, it would be something unimaginable before. Life Mission had ruined the world.

“Everyone, go away! I’m going to kill you two! You guys want to die too?”

When he swung the crossbow back and forth, people became frightened and backs away. There are Lifers among them. Lifers are people too. They die if a hole goes through their heads.

“Who are you!”

“Me? Just an observer. Don’t pay attention to me and go on so I can watch.”

Cha Jun Sung’s finger was pointing at himself. It is an infuriating gesture.

He did not back off and watched from his spot, pretending he did not care. The angry Lifer felt as though he had been lit up.

“Asshole! I’ll kill you too!”

“If you can.”

An arrow from the loaded crossbow flies out. It is not a bullet, but it reaches a speed of almost 200km, so the average person cannot avoid it.

As the distance is a mere 10m, it is over in the blink of an eye.

“It’s the lowest level of the crossbows. It has short range and weak penetration.”

Cha Jun Sung lowered his body and ran forward. He could see the arrow clearly. With the 2nd stage of body modifications, his physical abilities increased by 4 times.

His calloused hand caught the arrow. The repulsive force pulls his shoulder.

“He caught the arrow with his hand!”

“Goodness!”

The people who had watched a scene that was like magic made a fuss.

Cha Jun Sung reached the Lifer within moments and punched him in the stomach.

His eyes rolled with the pain of his guts being twisted. Cha Jun Sung had really only hit him slightly. If he had hit him with force, his muscles would have been ruptured or he would have died.

“Tsk!”

Cha Jun Sung looked at the Lifer who had passed out with pity, and went back to his car.

Rather than getting involved because he wanted to, he felt that he would have been in a terrible mood if someone had been murdered right next to him.

“I saved a couple people’s lives.”

The law says that a Lifer who commits murder is to be executed.

That is what it says, but no one knows if it is actually true. They may not really kill the murderer.

Vroom!

He started the car and left Han River. If he stays here, there will just be bothersome incidents. In a short while, the police would come and resolve it themselves.

Chapter 39

“It’s up.”

Cha Jun Sung clicked on the recruitment announcement on Hocheon’s homepage.

They had cast their bait 9 days after he made up his mind at Han River.

During that time, other guilds were diligently recruiting Lifers as well. Their standards must have been raised however, because their goal was 6000-7000 points.

It did not seem like there would be a great gap between 5000 points, but they could not ignore the step. Even if it makes them late, it is important to take each step.

If their patience runs low in the first place, they would not have waited 3 months.

-[We are recruiting intrepid Lifers in Hocheon to go into a Level D mission. We will be selecting personnel with a test, so please knock on the door to Hocheon on the given date and time. Thank you.]

Information like the sponsor and how many people would be recruited were posted, but it meant for them to wait until the test and go to Hocheon.

“The number of people they’re recruiting is 50... Since it’s the first, are they saying they’ll go in a controlled orientation?”

Controlling becomes easier as a guild has more people. If it is 50:50, he could guess Hocheon’s intent. It meant that this round is a quest.

Filling a guild to complete a Level D mission is solely for the reward points. They accept bribes to take people with them.

People could say, ‘If they’re going to do that, why follow them.’ ‘If individuals make a force, they can get rid of point bribes and take-alls.’

Would all Lifers who went through the advance mission to go on to Level D have outstanding skills? It would have been good if they did, but the reality is in the gutters.

Top Lifers create a party and allow 1 or 2 mediocre Lifers come along in exchange for a bribe of points or money.

Mediocre Lifers could complete the advance mission just by watching from the rear. This is why problems in skill arise.

They only think about getting out of Level E, and do not think about honing their skills.

Since there are Lifers that still struggle with Level D 1000 point solo missions, there is a type that cannot come out alive without the help of a guild.

-[You have applied for the recruitment announcement.]

Cha Jun Sung applied. Simultaneously, Park Jin Hyuk followed suit and applied.

“We just have to hide our body modification.”

There is no change in the equipment. It was all the same as when they left Field of Meat.

450,000 points accumulated. Of those, 200,000 points were invested in the 2nd stage of body modifications. He did not buy anything with the 250,000 points and they were being held in his PDA.

The price of each Level D equipment is at least 30,000 to 40,000 and reaches 300,000. As there is no way to resell them, there could be great regrets with the wrong click.

If there is something that Cha Jun Sung needs to buy, he deals with the most expensive item first. The first thing he wants in the Level D store! The thing that made him fall in love at first sight!

“Wolf blade.”

It is the best blade to buy from the Level D store. Its weak cutting force is a flaw, but it is understandable because it is a downgraded version.

300,000 points! If he just gathers 50,000 points, the wolf blade is his.

If the body modification and weapon are combined, he could confidently take on the lower half level Level 3 mutants as long as they are not as extreme as Slayers.

Park Jin Hyuk was also aiming for head hunter, a 350,000 point explosive sniper rifle. These are sitting right in front of them. They would come into their possession if they complete a few more missions.

“100 applicants. It’ll be noisy.”

An annoying situation could arise, but thinking like that before even going is unlucky. It is better to see everything in a positive light.

“I might as well warm up.”

The test is in 3 days. He does not want to just hang around, so he should just complete a mission.

He wanted to break through a 3000 point mission while he was at it, but it would easily take 5 days alone, but it would be enough to do two 1500 point missions.



“Hey!”

“It’s complicated.”

Park Jin Hyuk and Cha Jun Sung had expressions of disbelief as Lifers came swarming in like bees.

Seuk.

They could feel explicit attention. Everyone was comparing their equipment.

The test is simple. After checking their equipment and mission experience, they just have to go into a 1000 point mission accompanied by observers to complete it alone.

“I can’t tell by looking at them.”

“I’ll say.”

Everyone had impressive gear as people making attempts at a Level D mission should.

A 1000 point would be simple to complete if they had gotten here on their sole effort,

but those that did not would be filtered out easily.

The difference between an expert and someone who is not shows in the simplest of behaviors.

Only a few users had equipment like Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk's. They would need to keep an eye out but from what they saw so far, there were only three or four people.

There is a relaxed sense to their waiting. Those people are the real deal. They are Lifers who have gotten here on skill.

"There are a lot of pretty women."

"So you are a man."

"But it's not like I'm trying to do something about it. I just like seeing women more than I like seeing men."

Cha Jun Sung nodded in agreement. Could it be because the ratio is small? Strangely, he has never been in a party with a female Lifer.

According to the government census, the ratio of men to women is 7:3. In some ways, it is inevitable that there are more men.

The violence of Life Mission is more attractive to men than it is to women. Since that was reborn into the reality version, what would happen?

Even among the 36 rankers, only 6 are women. Cha Jung Sung had maintained an amicable friendship with one of those women.

"Reminds me of that woman."

"Who."

"Someone. She's pretty, cold, and quiet, but makes me feel good when we're together?"

"Oh oh! Invite her to a party!"

"She's a foreigner. She can't come here easily and I don't know her contact information."

With the ability to add friends in the virtual version, they could take actions like meeting up, but they had lost contact when the game switched to a reality version.

She is not a woman to be taken easily, but if it had been possible to contact her, he would have asked her opinion before inviting her to be part of a party with him and Park Jin Hyuk.

“We’ll meet if it’s fate.”

“What a pity.”

If they are fated to meet, they would meet. If the trust they had fostered in Life Mission had not come apart, the feeling would not have changed with time.

“Lifers, please gather in the auditorium! We will begin the test.”

A staff member of Hocheon’s guild yelled through a speaker. He moved the disorderly Lifers into the building auditorium. Cha Jun Sung was mixed in here as well.

When they went into the auditorium, judges were waiting for the Lifers at the end. They are the primary filter.

They could lie about their mission experience, but they could not lie about their equipment.

“I will call you in order by your names.”

The guild staff member started with last names beginning with K. Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk settled into the seats for Lifers with the thought that they would have to wait for a while.

The order passed in order. There were 2 or 3 people eliminated out of every 10.

Even those who passed were separated by their equipment. People with mediocre equipment and those with distinguished equipment. The guild staff members spoke politely to the latter.

Park Jin Hyuk went out and shortly after, Cha Jun Sung also went out. Both were assessed as the highest level and joined the ranks of Lifers receiving better treatment.

The practice test was also conducted by order of name. Even if a lot of people had been eliminated, it is impossible to observe each mission with just the staff members in one day.

It is safe because the observers are veterans who have gone through 1200 to 1300 point missions. Park Jin Hyuk went on the 2nd day and Cha Jun Sung went on the 3rd.

They were told to stay at a reserved dormitory in Hocheon until their turns came.

“Numbers 1 to 250 will enter the assigned missions.”

The mission numbers are decided, but another is assigned if one disappears. Even if tens of thousands of people enter, there is not a shortage of missions.

If there were, Life Mission would not have been able to handle the Lifers all around the world.

“Enter.”

In order to be chosen to enter the group entering Level D, Lifers were making the commitment and throwing themselves into the mission. They just hoped there would be no deaths.

Chapter 40

“You don’t have to do this...”

“I can’t receive special treatment when everyone is doing it. There’s no reason to either.”

An observer had an uncomfortable expression. After checking Cha Jun Sung’s equipment and mission experience, the observer proposed skipping the practical test.

His equipment was of a category indicative of someone who bribes others to join a group. A few other Lifers also received this proposal.

There were people who accepted and those who rejected, and Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk were among those who rejected.

In this situation, that was a favor. A major company giving out a favor?

Cha Jun Sung did not want to be connected to Hocheon in any way. There must be something that they want from him. He is blocking it, whatever it is.



“Phew! It’s high.”

The roof of a 12 story building. All he needed to do was get down from here. The goal is the escape. There is nothing as quick as escape if someone has the skill.

He opened the door of the roof with a crossbow in his hand. He only needs 30 minutes.

Not coming up with a strategy? What strategy. Kill it if he is detected while going downstairs, and keep going if he is not. The only aspect he needs to pay a bit of attention to are Level 2 mutants.

“Excuse me!”

“Yes?”

“Are you just going downstairs?”

“Yes.”

“Aren’t you going to take equipment like bombs? You’re just going with one automatic crossbow?”

The observer was taken aback by the straightforward answer. He had seen a lot of Lifers’ missions, but this is the first time someone is acting so recklessly.

When they enter missions, they rack their brains to prepare for all potential situations that could arise or equip themselves with all types of gear and crawl out.

On the other hand, test number 617, Cha Jun Sung, ignored all processes.

“It is escape, not annihilation. We need to move quietly to avoid engagement.”

Would it be necessary to call in mutants that he does not need to fight by firing a gun?

“But still...”

“Does Hocheon get involved in playing styles?”

The observer gulped. He could only assess if a Lifer is passing or eliminated, and he does not have jurisdiction beyond that. He was just worried that he would have to get involved.

“I’m going.”

“Number 617 test is beginning.”

The observer gave up. He thought that Cha Jun Sung was placing his trust in the gear on his body. If it becomes dangerous, he could eliminate Cha Jun Sung and handle it himself.

Cha Jun Sung went down the stairs. About 300 Level 1 mutants appear in a 1000 point mission. There would be about 20 to 30 per floor.

When he arrived on the 12th floor, demons with thin arms and legs and a bulging stomach greeted him. He could not tell what they had been eating, but their mouths

were messy.

An arrow embedded in its forehead. The same scene repeated a few times.

One shot, one hit. It was just one shot no matter what. Before the demons could react to the strange presence in their nest, they were dead.

A demon that had been hiding behind some shelves, flung his body at Cha Jun Sung. The observer watching from a distance pretended he did not notice. He could not get involved.

Cha Jun Sung did not even look at it and grabbed it by the neck. The demon that had been caught suddenly made a choking sound.

As its neck broke under the force of squeezing, there was the sound of cracking. Its body went limp. Cha Jun Sung threw the body.

The 12th floor was handled within moments. Even though it is a Level 1, it was done too easily. The observer fully realized that Cha Jun Sung is a true Lifer. He is not like the people who latch onto others. He is better than Hocheon's raid leader.

10 arrows in one bundle, is 5 points. Since they are a waste to throw away, they can be taken out and reused. It is a bit uncomfortable to do, but quick.

"What are you doing?"

"It's nothing."

He was about to go down to the 11th floor, but the observer was standing with a blank look.

'Its neck... Would I be able to do that too?'

Level 1 mutants are weaker than humans, but breaking its neck would not be easy. The observer suspected body modification but went past it thinking that it is probably not possible.

Even the master of Hocheon only went through the 1st stage of body modification a month ago.

Since he is now preparing for the 2nd stage, it is hard to believe that a private Lifer is able to go through body modification after getting that kind of equipment.

He thought that Cha Jun Sung in front of him could not do that unless he is a world renowned Lifer. This is why stereotypes are dangerous.

“Ugh, it’s bothersome.”

He wanted to go through the emergency stairs. But these damned helpers cannot let their Lifers take the easy route.

He suddenly remembered something funny he read on Lifer World. One Lifer had posted that he completed an escape mission by jumping off with a parachute.

As he left the mission area, a special mission was activated while it became Level D and because there was no way to go back, he had to give up the mission.

It is a scary situation where one might die, but it is funny in text.

To take a parachute off of a building, he is probably an unusual person in real life as well.

Every time they went down a floor, they met the demons living there. The numbers that ran away in fear of Cha Jun Sung’s strength increase.

They had smelled the blood coming from upstairs. Even if they lack intellect, they have instinct. This is where mutants have an advantage over humans.

After killing mutants here and there, they got closer to the 1st floor. At the same time, they detected strange movement in the front. It must be a Level 2.

“Will you hide somewhere you can’t be seen?”

“Ah, sure.”

The observer left. It is not necessary for him to put himself in danger to see the battle. His mission is complete just by seeing the results.

“Where are you?”

Kyak!

He even went into a shaded area on purpose with the thought, 'I'm unprotected. I'll give you the benefit of surprise.' Going further in, it bit the bait.

Cha Jun Sung tilted his head and got out of the way. A sharp toenail passed right in front of him. It was really close. He moved just the amount that he needed to. He had planned this.

"Demon Chief."

It is at least a head taller than he is. With its sturdy muscles, it must have muscular strength as well. A normal Lifer would not have been able to take it on with a bare body.

Cha Jun Sung looked the Demon Chief up and down and stopped on a spot. Even the cannibals covered their important parts, but this goes around naked.

The Demon Chief's voice sounded as though it were mocking him. It made him angry.

"You're going to be executed."

Its crime is crushing a man's pride. He could not forgive it.

Chapter 41

A sharp-looking man, the master of Hocheon, Chun Myung Ik, carefully looked through the list of applicants who passed. He does not look through the entire list with hundreds of people.

Chun Myung Ik only looked at Lifers with gold ratings. The vice master looks through the silver, and the raider leader goes through the rest. Contacting them is a matter for later.

He turns the page of the list. Shin Ho Young, the operating officer, waited in silence.

“Are there 6 people?”

Chun Myung Ik who read through the content, spoke. He sounds pleased. He does not know about body modification, but they are at the vice master’s level if they are gold level.

“So 3 people rejected the exception.”

“Their reasons for rejecting are similar. They said they would do what everyone else needs to do.”

“Contact the guys that accepted first.”

“We handled them first.”

“The difference between the guys who accepted the exception is just whether they have a lot or a little, and there’s going to be a prestigious ceremony. If they are treated like kings, they’ll fall into that and be easy to handle.”

Chun Myung Ik grew up in a rich family. He knows how to identify a situation.

Even if they are annoying because they are so full of themselves, it could be overlooked as long as their skills are there. They would become blood and flesh for Hocheon at any time.

“It has become quite a fun world, hasn’t it?”

“A dream has become realized.”

Chun Myung Ik leaned on a plush chair. He is the second son of Daeho Group.

He had been far from business administration since a young age. While his brother was advancing in business, he was going into Life Mission. Is that why? Everyone thought him pathetic.

The situation is reversed now. Chun Myung Ik’s brother does not have an account for Life Mission. He was not chosen in the random 2nd round of selection either.

Chun Myung Ik’s position in Daeho Group went up everyday. He did not have ambition before. But now that he has gained power, his thoughts changed.

He wanted to take Hocheon past Korea to make it a world-renowned guild.

He desperately needs talent. He does not need bookworms who write up business plans at their desks. The type of talent he needs is skilled Lifers.

He did not feel that they fell behind other guilds, but the reality version is not like an open highway. There are obstacles everywhere.

It is not a situation where starting first meant reaching the finish line first.

“What about preparations?”

“They are being processed without issues. Currently, we are picking outside personnel.”

Chun Myung Ik, the vice master, 10 raid leaders, and upper levels will participate in the level D mission. Since there are limitations to the crew, small adjustments need to be made to the operations.

The advancement of Hocheon is riding on this. They need to button the first hole well.

If they fail, Hocheon’s honor falls to the ground. Members of average guilds and Lifers at lower levels do not get an opportunity.

“We’re completing this no matter what.”

“Of course.”

Chun Myung Ik stood up and enjoyed the scenery outside. Sacrifice on behalf of a handful is inevitable. He is always part of that handful.

He would try to save as many members as possible, but they would be turned out if the situation calls for it. For Hocheon, there is nothing more important than mission completion.



Lifers' actions become busy. Various sounds rang in their ears. It was the sound of firearms and gear being checked.

They will be entering a Level D mission in 10 minutes. They checked their equipment multiple times, but they need to quickly go to the store and supplement whatever they were lacking in.

The top 50 Lifers of the 1000 who took the test, were chosen.

They have the skills to complete a 1500 point mission alone. If 10 of them make up a party, they could complete a Level E advance mission as well.

“They’re complete burglars.”

“Think of it as an investment for the future.”

“Does it make sense? To ask for half of the reward points! They’re thinking of getting 2500 points for nothing. They’re going to take all of the mutants anyway.”

Cha Jun Sung calmed down Park Jin Hyuk who was grumbling. It was harsh even to him. He heard that other guilds asked for 30%, but Hocheon is 50%.

Since the guild is the subject of the mission, they go in with a mutant take-all.

Lifers other than Park Jin Hyuk had issues with it, but Hocheon did not force the mission on them. If they do not like the conditions, they can leave.

“I’m tearing.”

“Let’s go see the mood.”

Their purpose in applying for Hocheon is to see how many level 1, 2, and 3 mutants appear, how wide the map is, and what they need to prepare and keep in mind.

“If they’re going to be like this, they should have just gone in by themselves.”

“If they do that, they can’t earn points.”

“Why not?”

“Think of getting 50% of points from each guild member. If it were you, what would you do?”

If it is a guild at Hocheon’s level, it is possible to come up with the members to complete a level D mission. The reason they do not do this is for the bribes.

They are thinking of using outside personnel as a means to earn points. Lifers who pass the test have gotten on the ride whether they wanted to or not.

The auditorium door opened and Hocheon’s master Chun Myung Ik, vice master Oh Min Ho, 10 raid leaders, and the 38 upper levels they chose, came in.

Along with the personnel in waiting, 100 people had gathered together. Chun Myung Ik’s people acted pompous and went up on the stage. Lifers focused on them.

“It’s the burglar boss.”

“Be careful what you say.”

Cha Jun Sung scolded Park Jin Hyuk. When Chun Myung Ik turned around, the auditorium became quiet. If he hears someone saying negative things about him, it could become an uncomfortable situation.

“I am Chun Myung Ik, master of Hocheon.”

Hocheon’s guild members clapped. Lifers did not follow suit and looked at him. They just wanted him to quickly say what he needs to and go into the mission.

“I’ll get to the point. As this is a mission of extreme importance to Hocheon, we hope

that you will give it your best.”

Chun Myung Ik said a few more words. If it were not for the mission ahead of them, these are people that he can ignore. Lifers searched the mission name on their PDAs.

-[Level D Mission: Empire Biology Institute] [Goal: Attainment]

-[Content: Pharmaceutical company, Empire, established hundreds of laboratories around the world. Laboratories study samples that are respectively differentiated. According to current Lifers’ standards, deodorizing the sample on the last floor is impossible, so you must create a path to the middle half first.]

-[Reward: 5000 points. Lucky box.]

“Empire Biology Institute? Even the conglomerates can’t escape the clutches of missions.”

Empire.

It is a world-renowned representative pharmaceutical company of America and exists in reality as well.

With time, there was a connection between the mission’s worldview and reality, but what that was is not revealed.

There are several companies that have experienced damage because of missions. There were even times when government secrets were revealed.

“Give me your force applications. My helper name is Vulcanus.”

Lifers gave their force applications under Chun Myung Ik’s helper name. Cha Jun Sung erased the questions in his head and decided to focus on the mission.

It is not his duty to reveal the phenomenon. If they keep going, there will be a day when they find out. Until then, he will just keep going forward.

Chapter 42

It is an open space like a tunnel. Nothing was visible because of the darkness where no light entered. It was damp and heavy.

The starting point was quiet. It is as an area specified by the helper should be.

A red light flashes. The force members' vision goggles had turned on. As their vision sharpened, they could see around them.

There is a difference with built-in features, but everyone had vision goggles because their equipment was on the better side.

"Is this the path to the laboratory?"

"This scale is no joke."

It is not certain where it is open until. It was not uncomfortable even though 100 people had gathered. If the path is to this extent, the laboratory will be incredibly large.

"I think it's a linking mission."

"It could be."

Park Jin Hyuk whispered. He thought that it was impossible to reach the sample on the last floor with the current Lifers' standards.

There is a high probability that as with the underpass, it is a linking mission where the level of difficulty becomes higher as they travel in. Until the middle is the limit that the force is to be allowed.

A catastrophe could arise if they stepped into this without tension, but he did not think that Chun Myung Ik would be that stupid.

"Who activated the radio feature?"

“Me.”

“I did as well.”

“We can do it too.”

Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk also raised their hands. If they use the radio feature, it is possible to deliver a messy situation and react quickly.

“We’ll match them to frequency number 6.”

-[Ah ah! Can you hear me?]

-[I can hear you.]

-[Confirmed.]

The voice is clear. It was just right in dealing with a large scale of members. Those without radio features agreed to follow the Hocheon guild members’ orders.

-[Seeker input.]

10 seekers in simple gear went into the tunnel ahead of the force.

The vision goggle range is 100m. It is extremely efficient on this kind of straight road. It is an invisibility cloak that conceals a moment’s appearance.

A clear system is not visible because it does not have the former system of the virtual version, but they could work out a frame.

A mechanical engineer who uses all sorts of means like stealth, search, laser, sniper, hand-to-hand combat blader, professional terrorist.

There is even a medic who has the ability to fight and is also specialized in medical equipment.

There are hundreds of occupations in the virtual version. If they gather points and purchase equipment, Lifers’ styles will become more determined.

“Do you think there will be something outside?”

“Don’t you think it’ll be a desolate desert, the middle of nowhere, or in the middle of the sea?”

There is no detour.

It is a cul-de-sac.

Behind them, an iron door of a thickness they cannot guess is blocking the way. There has not been a Lifer who escaped the mission area, and no one who escape had anything good to say.

Unnecessary curiosity brings trouble. It is wise to only do what they are being told to do.

-[200 meters in front, we’ve discovered an object similar to the iron door behind us.]

-[We found a door that one person can go through. Force, proceed.]

Chun Myung Ik signaled with his hand to move them. The force formed a long line and took one step at a time. Cha Jun Sung was going to follow as well, but he did not see Park Jin Hyuk.

He looked around for him and saw him stuck to the iron door behind them.

‘What are you doing?’

‘There’s a door here too. I want to open it.’

‘Follow me.’

Cha Jun Sung took him by the hand and dragged him. Park Jin Hyuk still looked like he wanted to open the door.

When they arrived at the front, a seeker was waiting with the door open.

It seemed opening the door was not difficult. They went inside in turn. About 5 minutes passed and everyone on the force had succeeded in entering the laboratory.

“Geez.”

“It’s incredible.”

Even if it is a laboratory, it is a building. When the force members looked at it however, it did not seem to have the configuration of a normal building. It was so wide that it was like looking outside.

It was to the point where they could hold a soccer or baseball match there.

“There are a lot of strange things here because it is a laboratory.”

“It’s perfect for a mutant to ambush in.”

“Be careful.”

“You be careful.”

The Hocheon guild members were quiet but as there were so many Lifers, they could hear a reckless local broadcast. It was difficult to control each person.

-[For a smooth mission process, we will temporarily operate the laboratory power.]

The dark lab lit up brightly. The Lifers took their vision goggles off. More than what they could see, there is nothing they could do about the cumbersome aspect.

“He should have just left it off.”

“Really.”

“We can’t avoid battle anyway. This kind of environment is easier to fight in.”

“We have to take care of it manually if the power doesn’t come in, but how could we do that? If the path to the middle is blocked by an automatic door, what are we going to do then?”

The force members were divided by positive and negative thoughts. If a mutant wakes up, the risk becomes higher but it is convenient in some ways.

Cha Jun Sung was on the positive side. In a mission, not being able to avoid mutants while trying to is an added option. On top of that, is this not their living room?

Since they are used to the darkness, using them is another option.

-[We will not move on until we completely attack one area.]

Chun Myung Ik radioed in. To interpret, that meant he wanted to make sure they kill all of the mutants to get the points before moving on.

The average time to complete a level D mission is 1 week if it is short and 2 weeks if it is long. In this situation, it would take 2 weeks because they are cleaning up the entire place.

Clunk!

“You heard that, right?”

“Yeah.”

They heard the noise of metal colliding far away. Because obstructions blocked their view, they could not tell what was making the sound.

The force members were not able to hear it and were busy chatting amongst themselves. Chun Myung Ik and Oh Min Ho who had only gone through the 1st stage of body modification were focused on explaining the operation.

If the first metal sound was a fricative noise, the sound now is clearly a mutant’s cry. It is getting closer. As the sound grew louder, Chun Myung Ik reacted later.

-[To the raid circle.]

Hocheon’s raider took out his SMG. It is not visible yet.

“Slow and frustrating, it’s those guys.”

“What type is it?”

“Demon.”

“Ah! Demon.”

The cry of demons is unique. A few force members realized what the approaching

mutants were. It is similar to zombies that appear in movies.

The difference is that it is not a corpse but a living being. It is an easy opponent as long as they are careful of its vomit, salient with acid solution.

Demons swarm in from everywhere. It is ugly as though a person was melted down.

They were covered by obstructions, but there looked to be 200 to 250. With so many of them coming in early, it shows the difficulty of level D.

-[Aim a shot each and fire.]

Pew pew!

They could only go as fast as human speed would allow them, so they could not even approach them and fell to the floor one by one.

When a bullet goes through them, blood splatters. Compared to their numbers, they were pushed back relatively easily.

There is no reason to take their heads off. Wherever they hit them, all they have to do is get the shot. On the other hand, Chun Myung Ik did not kill them instantly and hoped to end it without acting.

-[Stop.]

The hail of shooting stopped. Chun Myung Ik and Oh Min Ho looked among the demons sprawled on the ground and happily killed the ones that were still alive.

They are getting all of the points at one time. That is why the point accumulation speed of large guild cadres was so fast. They take others' points and take the easy work.

-[Move.]

They are remaining by the iron door because of Chun Myung Ik's predation. They need to move diligently if they want to get to the middle. The Lifers followed orders well.

Cha Jun Sung watched the Lifers' actions and focused on understanding the mission.

He had given up on points before entering the mission.

Instead, he would be gaining something better. First, he needs to find the changes. Even if the answer is different, the goal is to find the formula.

If the points are the same, the difficulty will be similar. Level E was like that as well.

The lab is a large maze. No matter how much they wandered, the terrain did not become more familiar but instead, more complex. This is how large the map of a level D is.

C and B could be guessed to be about the size of a small town. Then the time it will take to complete? It could take at least a few months and up to a few years.

“They’re scraping everything up.”

“They’re persistent.”

There are dozens of rooms where people sleep and warehouses that store items.

Hocheon went around digging through each to see if there would be anything to take.

The comical aspect was that outsiders like Cha Jun Sung were under control, ordered to just follow them everywhere without any other rights.

The tyranny of a large guild. Hocheon was showing them the epitome of a take-all.

Chapter 43

Unlike the other Lifers, Cha Jun Sung did not have a problem with it. He had chosen this. He even thought it convenient that he did not have to do anything but watch.

Park Jin Hyuk was also relaxed and had a drowsy expression.

Several hours had passed since they entered the lab. In that time, they had engaged in fights just 3 times and each time, 200 mutants had turned up like the first time.

It seemed the mutants were coming at them with numbers since the Lifers came in as a force.

“We could handle the beginning on our own.”

“Level 3 is the issue. Since the goal is getting the path to the middle, it’s probably there, but it wouldn’t be weird if they turned up now either.”

What if they were at ease because it is the beginning and a Level 3 turned up amongst the Level 1s and 2s?

The aspect they must not overlook in missions even more so than the mutants is change. If a change in the flow occurs, everything becomes a mess.

“Looks like we’ll be here a few days.”

“Probably.”

“I’ll draw a map.”

Park Jin Hyuk activated the hologram on his PDA. It had memo and drawing pad functions, so it was useful for writing information down.

He must memorize the entire situation including the terrain and mutants.

If it really is a linking mission, they may need to come here often.

He could not guarantee that they would be coming as part of a force the next time, but if they made the evaluation that they could handle it between the two of them, they would come in before Hocheon could make another attempt.

Whether it is 1 person or 2 people, no one else can enter a mission until the leader of the party that entered first comes out. Life is speed. There is no sharing.

‘Let’s enjoy this freedom.’

He looked peaceful, but his eyes and head were attacking the lab.



They went around and around for 5 days. Chun Myung Ik is a man and he kept his word. They did not move on to the next area until they cleaned one out.

A mission that started with tension became covered in annoyance.

Park Jin Hyuk swore about Chun Myung Ik randomly. He is ignorant and only hunting. As the same situation kept repeating, the mission became long and extremely tedious.

“I can’t take this anymore.”

“Me neither.”

“What is he doing? This is too much. We’re not just lookouts.”

The other Lifers expressed their complaints out loud. They could understand bribes and take-alls because they were told about this ahead of time. The issue was that there was no progress.

If they finish like this, all they come out with are 2500 reward points.

They wanted to speed up the mission even if it meant catching less mutants, but Hocheon did not seem to have any intentions of doing so.

A take-all and this situation are completely different. Lifers had participated in this level D mission while knowing that they are at a disadvantage, for the experience.

If this was a level E mission, they would have earned about 10,000 points by now.

“Looks like they’re going to start something.”

“It’s just that they ask for too much patience, but it’s not like there’s nothing to get out of this.”

They had stayed in the lab for a long time, but he had learned a lot. And in a broad view, they had been able to see the difficulty level of the beginning of a level D mission.

Nearly 2500 level 1 mutants appeared. There were over 30 level 2 mutants.

Even with that, they had not been able to reach the middle. The map is vast and according to the region to perform in, it is important to know how to use the facility.

Because power becomes the operation, there is freedom in a primitive life. The boiler turned on in the room with the Lifers and it would have even been possible to take a warm shower.

In the food warehouse, there was abundant food for all of the force members to eat for 1 year. Though it was worn out, it even had a medical facility as a lab should.

If only there were no mutants, they could have figured out the food, clothing, and shelter in the lab.

The more interesting thing was that if there was a well-informed Lifer, he would be able to dominate the lab’s main system like the helpers.

Then they would be able to find out the lab’s exact configuration and why it was founded. They might even be able to find out some secrets of Life Mission.

The question was of how many people there were in the world who would be able to do this.

15 Lifers went to Chun Myung Ik who was taking a break amongst Hocheon members. It seemed they were going to voice their complaints like Park Jin Hyuk had said.

“Look here, Mr. Chun Myung Ik.”

“Do not call the master by his name. Show respect.”

The raid leaders blocked the Lifers. They looked like loyal servants.

“Name? Respect? Are you filming a soap opera?”

“What?”

Ha ha!

The Lifers laughed when the raid leader became angry. Chun Myung Ik is only a master to Hocheon. He is just Mr. Chun Myung Ik to Lifers.

“Speak.”

“You get to the point.”

Chun Myung Ik had the raid leader back down and asked the Lifers why they had come to him.

“I’ll be direct. Until when are we going to keep going in circles?”

“I think we told you.”

“If you were going to take so much of our time, you should have told us on the notice or before entering. What are we supposed to do if you tell us once we’re inside?”

Chun Myung Ik looked into the Lifer’s eyes. In the sudden eye match, the Lifer was pushed down by his opponent’s force, but he endured it with his trust in his colleagues.

“Did you really not know?”

“So you’re saying you didn’t do anything wrong because this is something that other guilds do as well?”

“Yes.”

“You’re joking.”

Hocheon’s infamous ways are like a practice. Lifers are not completely ignorant to this.

However, there is a difference between hearing about others falling to it and going through it yourself. There is no loss like this. There was a need for calculations.

Lifers needed to choose between quitting the mission and going through with the mission the way Hocheon wants to. Chun Myung Ik listened quietly and then filled the rest of their words.

“So it seems like you’re asking for the chance to hunt equivalent to Hocheon’s.”

The Lifer coughed as though he had hit the bullseye. Anyone, not just Chun Myung Ik, could think like this. He thought for a moment before speaking.

“You 15 take part time shifts at the front, hunting the mutants.”

“Really?”

“Really. Just one thing! You have to fall back right now if you don’t have the confidence. I really don’t like people who take back what they say.”

The Lifers were happy with Chun Myung Ik’s decision. They had already gotten an idea of the lab’s pattern. They could kill hundreds as long as a level 3 does not appear.

Even if it does appear, the force members would help. It is a golden opportunity.

“Are you finished?”

“Ha ha! It’s a good thing the master of Hocheon isn’t too stiff.”

The Lifers were satisfied with the result and went back laughing.

‘Hm...’

Cha Jun Sung saw everything that had happened and felt off about it. He thought Chun Myung Ik would have rejected them, but he gave in so easily. He is less fun than expected. Unless he is up to something.

-[Let’s go.]

The short break ended and Chun Myung Ik stepped in for the progression. After solving the problems of the discontented, the mood of the force became much lighter.

Chapter 44

-[You have gotten through the beginning of the Biology Institute and entered the center.]

As soon as the door to the cargo lift opened, they received a welcome and unexpected notice.

The journey through the beginning had finally ended and they were moving on to the next step. The lifts were large enough to hold all of the force members with space for more.

It had not been created for transportation at first, but since it was aimed for large capacity loads, it was easy to load and move people with it.

“The warehouse is as big as a gym.”

“What do they have saved here? Is this too related to the linked special mission?”

One Lifer approached a container box and tried opening it. It has a padlock on it but that does not matter.

-[You have discovered a large object. The linking special mission is starting.]

-[Level E Special Mission: Procurement]

-[Goal: Attainment]

-[Content: Move the materials into the briefing room regardless of the type.]

-[Reward: 1 point per 1kg]

“The food storage and hospital are the same.”

“Tsk! If the space compression bag were big enough, we would have gotten a few thousand points.”

There was so much that Hocheon could not keep all of it to themselves, but they did not bother putting their hands on it. The absence of space compression bags is a big reason why.

Even if they had them, there would be no room inside because it would be full of items they need to take care of the mission.

“What a waste.”

“It’s however you think about it.”

Cha Jun Sung looked around the warehouse. If all of it was taken to the briefing room, it would be worth a few million points.

If the food warehouse and hospital was added, they would no longer need to worry about points. If they complete the mission however, there is no re-entrance.

It is a type of balance. There is a limit to the points that they can obtain.

With the underpass that Park Jin Hyuk found, it could not be seen as a completing with killing the blood-sucking insects. The blood-sucking lord needs to be killed for it to be over.

Repeating the task of emptying the bag and filling it again seems to be ignorant.

If someone enters the mission during that time, it becomes like a dog chasing a chicken. The reality version that Lifers experience is not forgiving enough to allow for tricks to work.

It is an enclosed space with restricted access, save for a few cargo lifts. It was ominously silent. They could only hear the sound of wind leaking in from somewhere.

“It’s the entrance.”

“Is there just one?”

As they walked along the container box, they quickly found the entrance door. Unlike the lift, there was just one. It seems they have to leave through that door.

It has a door like a valve because it stores important material. The handle did not turn

whether it was because it is locked or rusted over.

Chun Myung Ik called one of his guild members. The man cut the valve with a fever cutter from the space compression bag. They carried with them all sorts of items.

It did not cut in one try. It took quite a while to open the door, but it was still better than making a lot of noise by trying to open it with a bomb.

Creak!

The door opened up to a narrow passage like a train compartment. One person at a time? If they tried to fit two people in, it would be packed tight.

Now it was time to input the seekers, but Chun Myung Ik spoke to the Lifers who asked for equal hunting opportunities.

-[Go in.]

-[You're telling me to go in there?]

-[Of course not. I'm telling all 15 people who came to me yesterday.]

-[I'll turn it down. If we go in and a mutant comes at us, won't we be the ones taking the hit? Put in the seekers like you normally do!]

At that, Chun Myung Ik touched his face. Hocheon's guild members held their breaths. It is behavior that he shows when he is really angry.

-[Do you swallow it if it's sweet and spit it out if it's bitter?]

-[What are you talking about?]

-[I told you to fall back if you don't have the confidence and now you're saying that you want to put the seekers in because it seems dangerous? I'm sure I told you that I don't like people who don't keep their word.]

The Lifers shut their mouths as though glued. Their shock was apparent. Everything that Chun Myung Ik was saying is correct.

"They're caught."

“Chun Myung Ik is obnoxious, but they won’t be able to refute that.”

He had given them the opportunity to hunt because they had frustrations about the slow progress. However, they are trying to pull out now because it is a dangerous situation.

No matter how much they tried to look at it in a good light, they could not. They were completely trapped. Chun Myung Ik had justified reason to condemn those who disobeyed him.

-[If you will not go in, I’m going to send the list of your names to all guilds in Korea. If you can’t follow through, you shouldn’t have said anything in the first place.]

-[You can’t do that!]

-[Please!]

It is an extreme measure and it is possible with Hocheon’s influence.

The 15 Lifers looked at each other. It is safer the later they go in.

If they are being forced to go in, they need to avoid being at the forefront. Everyone looked at one person. The first Lifer who brought up the issue to Chun Myung Ik.

He looked like he was going to cry. He would turn back time if he could.

The Lifers went into the passage. They do not have a choice.

It is not a width that can hold 100 people, so they went in 20 people at a time from the beginning. Cha Jun Sung was in the 2nd half of the group.

There were thick and thin pipes all over the passage walls.

The surface itself is a sturdy steel. It would be difficult for a mutant to get through. The ceiling and floor were similar. All they have to do is be careful with the front.

Since it was the basement and there was not much ventilation, the internal temperature was high. Tension and heat mixed to make them sweat. It felt bad, but they endured it.

Each time they opened the door, the group leader was relieved. They were on edge just in case a mutant might appear.

It was when the door opened for the 4th time. The view changed suddenly from that of a place they needed to go into a place that they need to escape from.

They could not go out recklessly. They were going out as though waiting for something.

The group leader put his vision goggles on. The range is short because it is a basic model. The effect was weak as well because the wall is thick. Only the open front is clear.

-[Go forward.]

‘Damn it!’

‘Damn.’

Chun Myung Ik’s radio reacted the same as if it were the leader’s.

It was strangely dark even though the power had been turned on. Why is this? Is it something the mutants did? As they relaxed, they started having other thoughts.

Their feet became heavy with tension. They could not get out because they might be attacked by surprise in their blind spots. One Lifer threw a photothermal grenade after thinking a while.

The grenade flung far hit the ground and gave off a bright light. As it is an open space without obstructions, the brightness had its best effect.

‘Chair? Table? Vending machine?’

‘Is it a rest area?’

A few people from the leading group stuck their heads out and looked around.

They could not figure out the situation outside by seeing what is inside the door. What could they do when they did not want to expose their bodies but stick their heads out.

They were in desperate need of navigation equipment, but the point consumption for that would be severe.

There are commonly seen products on the market.

Their first impression was that it is a rest area for public use. They could be wrong but this was their feeling. Fortunately, they did not see any mutants.

‘Seems empty.’

‘Whew!’

One Lifer let out a deep breath. The hot breath rode the air and spread throughout the rest area.

Thump.

A sound similar to a heartbeat rang in the leading group’s ears.

It was weak at first, but it grew loud enough for all of the force members to hear. It is a living sound that a machine cannot make – there is no doubt that it is a mutant.

Sniff sniff!

They are certain that it is the heartbeat of one being. It just seems like several hearts were beating at the same time and after overlapping multiple time, it was like a drum was being pounded mercilessly.

-[It’s a hatchery.]

Cha Jun Sung unintentionally revealed the mutant’s identity in the radio.

Chapter 45

There are few mutants that show their identities in such a unique manner. Of them, only the hatchery follows heartbeats.

-[Of course.]

-[I think it is as well.]

The force members agreed with Cha Jun Sung's opinion. They had each also experienced Life Mission for a few years. They knew how to distinguish between unique mutants.

-[Which stage do you think it's at?]

-[Since it's level D, 1st stage is highly possible and 2nd if it's more evolved?]

-[That's right. If it's completely developed, it would not be 5000 points.]

It is a hatchery. It is nearly unable to fight but like its name, it consumes nutrients when it feels danger to produce mutants.

Hatcheries go through the nest in the 2nd stage and become a complete headquarters. Headquarters in the virtual version are whopping levels 5 to 7.

Cha Jun Sung had never seen a level 7 headquarters before either. According to rumors, only Nine Tail of the 36 rankers had caught one but he could not remember well.

The guy outside is a hatchery or nest. It would be better if it were a hatchery, as long as it is not an old nest with a level 4.

-[Seeing how it is waking up from hibernation, it seems it smelled the force members.]

-[There isn't movement in the production. It hasn't sensed danger yet.]

The radio became busy. It is easy for 100 people to get rid of a hatchery.

What they are reluctant about is coming across a new mutant during battle.

Mutants are each individuals. So most of them including the hatchery, do not like encroaching on other areas.

This is a variable. They could get in trouble if they let their guards down thinking that it is just a hatchery area. They must calculate all possibilities in every situation.

More is better does not apply in the case of mutants. If there are more mutants, there are only more disasters. Not having any is the shortcut to world peace.

-[I still see a few dark corners. Let's throw a few more photothermal grenades.]

-[If possible, I'd like to get visibility and get by without fighting.]

They cannot bother it. It is important to deliver the message, 'I want to get by this path. I don't intend to impose on you.'

Instead of throwing the photothermal grenades, they were rolled out. 3 photothermal grenades lit up the rest area. The panorama came into sight, including the hatchery hanging on the ceiling.

-[Nest?]

-[Damn it!]

Thump.

It is a living being hanging ominously over a rest area exceeding hundreds of square feet.

It is like a wrinkled piece of meat with disgusting veins, bumpy thorns, and dozens of open wombs that give birth to mutants.

A hatchery has less than 10 wombs. It has a short range, thin veins, and thorns that look as though they are not fully protruding. The one on the roof is immature.

The light red color shows this. Regardless of its evolution, the color gets darker the

longer it stays. In the case of headquarters, it is a darker red than blood.

Even if it is freshly evolved, a nest is a nest. Therefore, it is definitely a level 3.

-[Does anyone know how many minutes it takes to pull a level 3 in the virtual version?]

-[It only takes a few seconds for level 1, 1 minute for level 2, and 5 minutes for level 3.]

There must be a Lifer other than Cha Jun Sung who knows because someone responded as soon as they heard the question.

-[How many wombs are there?]

-[26.]

It was hard for people other than the leading group to check the situation, so it was relayed by word of mouth.

-[It could pull out 400 mutants by itself. It looks like we'll have to expect at least 2 mutants in level 3 as well.]

This is in the case of a fight. If they just get past this safely, they will not have to face even one.

-[Do you see a way out?]

-[Wait a second.]

The Lifers that were an issue to Chun Myung Ik had found a path using photothermal grenades.

With the force as the point, there were doors similar to the one they had come through to the east and west. They must be paths to places like warehouses.

In a direction slight off a straight line, a connection that they could go in and out of with ease was waiting for visitors.

-[I can see it. It's difficult for us to assess this on our own, so please come and take a look for yourself.]

-[I'll go up.]

The force members pushed their bodies against the wall. The passage is narrow but when they moved around a little, they could make enough space for Chun Myung Ik and a few others to get through.

When they arrived at the front, Chun Myung Ik looked in the direction the Lifers indicated.

-[We've found the right place.]

A rest area is a place to meet. Even if they had rode the cargo lifts into a different warehouse, they would have had to go through this one anyway.

It seems the road pioneering mission exists because of the nest. Since it is in the center, blocking the path to the latter half of the mission, they will need to either avoid it or kill it.

"Do you think the mission will be complete even if we avoid it?"

"I don't think so if it's pioneering."

"Right? If we avoid it, it'll stay alive. That's not pioneering it. With time, it'll multiply or develop into headquarters."

The force members nodded to Park Jin Hyuk's words without realizing.

It makes sense. What if when they received a sample takeover that is suspected to be a link, the starting point selection is always a tunnel? Every time they come, they would have to face the nest.

[Battle will be the worst possible situation. We will go in the direction of avoiding it.]

Chun Myung Ik thought on Park Jin Hyuk's words before making his decision. They will go with the lower risk first. Battle is not the best method, it is the second best.



Cha Jun Sung who was passing through the rest area with the force members slightly tilted his head.

Boom boom!

The nest is moving. Is it because it senses movement in the area but not danger? They were being consistent without showing activity. Even if it noticed that they have a motive, it had no way to know what that is. Look. Does that bizarre creature have expression? It is just stuck to wall.

‘Throwing it is a problem too, but the middle falls and blasts if the bomb’s timing is off. In this battle, a bomb is a double-edged sword.’

The distance between the floor and ceiling is about 30m, higher than a 10 story building. This problem is not to be resolved with strength alone. There needs to be a sense for measuring distance.

Even with Cha Jun Sung’s muscular strength, he could not guarantee that he would get the timing right.

To only bring shock?

As a building type, the outer shell of the nest is tough and thick. The eggs is hatches are indescribably hard as well.

‘Confine them.’

There are 100 people in the force. It is a large space of almost 500 to 600 square feet, but a battle here would put shackles on the Lifers.

If they misuse the weapons, allies will be hurt. Weapons do not have eyes.

‘It’s the best way.’

A few Lifers kill the hatching eggs that fall one by one.

A few check from the rear. The Lifers cannot get mixed up no matter what. A level 3 that falls will keep several Lifers tied up.

If this happens, there will be fewer deaths. There is no guarantee for what will happen once they encounter it. It is all just prediction.

-[The situation at the tail-end?]

-[Groups 7 and 8 just passed. Now, only 9 and 10 need to pass.]

Soon after, the rest of the groups came over. The force went into a connected path. A change occurred while they were get farther away from the nest's sensing range like this.

-[If you would like to complete the mission, you must get rid of the nest in the rest area.]

-[Ack!]

-[This is crazy!]

The force was in despair. What Park Jin Hyuk said had come true. They could not avoid battle. They reacted with sensitivity because the situation has a direct impact on their lives.

-[We'll need to split up into teams. It is not a good environment for 100 people to start shooting.]

-[Are you saying that some people will have to go out and fight while others stay back and keep a lookout?]

-[If you have a twisted outlook like that from the beginning, our teamwork will only come apart.]

There are several conversations. There is one meaning in all of the conversations. 'I don't want to go out and fight, so you go out.'

It is different if the entire force goes out, but they do not want to take the initiative to go out and fight. Cha Jun Sung did not refute this either. He was the same.

-[Can't we lure them into the warehouse?]

-[Oh! It would work if we take on a few with our large numbers!]

It is the method that Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk used in Field of Meat. If they use that narrow passage, they could reduce the nest's productivity for sure.

'Will the nest be deceived so easily?'

Chapter 46

Hatcheries and nests are intelligent. This is unnecessary to say for the headquarters.

If the nest is the head, the womb that produces mutants is the body or arms and legs. There is no reason that something that needs to control hundreds of mutants would not be smart.

Cha Jun Sung hid his inner thoughts. Even if it is not deceived easily, it is still better to fight it in the warehouse than it is to fight in the rest area.

‘So this is how the situation becomes twisted.’

Chun Myung Ik wanted to avoid the nest in order to reduce the damage.

Level 1 and 2 could not harm the force. Level 3 is different. There are a lot of points to be earned if they catch it, but it is wise to go past it if they can.

-[We will decide the order of going back to the warehouse to face the nest.]

They need to create a rotation however they can, whether it is by drawing lots. If they do not, it could end with everyone trying to push it off to the other. If they are chosen, they will just have to think of it as fate.

Chun Myung Ik started with looking at the last group that came in. Maybe because they already passed through once or because they need to fight, their tension was released.

Achoo!

A Lifer who had been moving in the middle, sneezed.

The smell in his saliva filled the nest as it sprayed out.

Kung!

It is a sweet smell contrasting that of a mutant's. A smell that was once sensed a long

time ago, wet the nest's resting appetite.

-[Bastard! Why would you sneeze! You bastard!]

Ranting was poured on the Lifer who sneezed. As the radio became noisy, the rest area rang. It did not matter if they lowered their voices because they had already been discovered.

26 wombs open and eggs the size of humans come out. It is impossible to distinguish their levels visually. The force rushed to the warehouse.

With so many people, the eggs fell before even half of them could go in. When the eggs hit the ground, they broke and unidentifiable mutants sprang out.

Kiak!

A nest operates the genes of the mutants that it gives birth to as it pleases.

It could even maintain the characteristics of the types that it swallowed. As long as it has nutrients and freedom, it can bring out new types as easy as production.

"Get away!"

"Die!"

Pew pew!

A Lifer was caught and brandished his SMG. It was washed out because it is a level 1. They cannot drag the time. These guys are bait.

There are 26 eggs but 20 hatched. It is obvious that 6 of them will be level 2 and 3.

Level 1 only takes a few seconds, so they fell down as they were killed.

"Hurry up and get in, asshole!"

"Move!"

The entrance is narrow, but nearly 50 Lifers had gathered there. Since it is a lawless situation, their speed was faster than usual.

Zing!

Woah!

When there were about 20 Lifers left, 4 out of 6 eggs cracked. A roar let them know that a muscle monster over 2m in size had been born.

“It’s a Crawlion!”

“Shoot!”

It is a simple and ignorant mutant. Its intellectual level brinks on retardation as it only eats, sleeps, and kills, but its tremendous muscular strength covers this shortcoming.

Its muscular strength alone is 5 to 6 times that of a human. The toughness and thickness of the muscles are reminiscent of elephant skin. Even as it is hit by an SMG, it pushes forward.

Kung!

Bang!

The Crawlion pushed through the shooting and headbutted a Lifer, hitting his chest and making him fly at a wall of the rest area.

With the shock of the pressure on his chest, the protective gear and his sternum shattered, and his ribs pierced through his heart, lungs, and skin.

The more shocking thing was that he must have still been alive because he moved his head.

Kiak!

While 4 Crawlions were hanging in, the number of level 1 mutants increased to 50. Wrapping up was up to the Crawlions.

-[Shit! Chun Myung Ik, you asshole!]

-[If you still have the strength to curse, how about blocking the mutants from the rear?]

When Chun Myung Ik heard the radio come in, he laughed in mockery. The Lifer cursing at him is the one who had asked him for an equal chance to hunt.

He had not known that there was a nest when he had sent the Lifer to the front. How could he have known?

All he had done was allow the 15 Lifers who did not know their place to have the first meeting with a level 3. If they live, they live and if they die, it is their own fault.

When they discovered the rest area, the nest realized their presence. This is when they started thinking. They needed to know the cognizance of the nest.

It was the perfect location to force them out. They could push the look out onto other Lifers.

The thought 'as long as it isn't me' made the 50 members of Hocheon and the other 35 Lifers into accomplices. It was a cause that could make them into sacrifices.

After Chun Myung Ik confirmed safety through the 15 Lifers, he sent the 85 people into the rest area. There was no issue until he heard his helper's announcement.

From now on? The faster they go into the warehouse, the lower their chances are of being attacked. The slower they are to go in, the higher their chances of attack. He was fair and sent the people who came out last, in first.

15 is the end. 1 idiot had sneezed but the results were not bad. Someone needed to block the mutants at the passage anyway.

Though it was a forced matter without consideration for their wills, but he did not care.

-[Ack!]

-[Kya!]

The radio is full of screaming. 20 Lifers were battling the Crawlions and level 1 mutants that surrounded them. Escape was not feasible either.

Pew pew pew pew!

Sparks fly in the passage. 6 Lifers paired off and took positions to shoot to the side, sitting, and standing, supporting the Lifers outside.

Kung!

Kung!

The nest cries. 1 Crawlion understood it and went toward the passage. Its flesh ripped as the shooting was focused on it, but it kept pushing on.

Bang!

And the door closed.

Ping!

Since it is an iron door, the bullets did not go through and bounced in all directions. One flew by a Lifer's head, but he avoided penetration thanks to his helmet.

"How could it close the door!"

"Go and open it! We'll all die like this!"

"You go!"

None of the 6 people approached the door. If they open the door and are captured by the Crawlion or are dragged outside, they are dead.

-[Help!]

-[There are only 12 people left!]

Ping ping ping ping!

Even while hesitating, Lifers died. Everyone ignored it because another's death was not as important as their own safety.

Papat!

6 Lifers closed their eyes and went into the warehouse. There, 74 Lifers were

preparing for battle. The first casualties were 20 people.

[If a level 3 is born while we're fighting out there, we don't know how many people will die. The best we can do is to block the passage and only kill the ones that approach us.]

Everyone looked at the only door that was closed at a distance, and sighed deeply. The second that door opens, they would be stuck at the border.

-[Ha ha ha ha! They're all dead!]

-[Hurry up and move this! Chun Myung Ik, you asshole! I'm going to kill you!]

A few Lifers must have survived because the radio rang. It seems they killed the Crawlions. Since there are 20 people, they had to have a lot of fire power.

-[Behind you!]

-[Huh! That's s...!]

Not even 10 seconds had passed since they let them know that they are alive. They had talked as though they would come in through the door at any time, but the radio ended with an eerie sound.

"It's a level 3."

Cha Jun Sung touched the sword on his belt. It is not enough with level E equipment.

Is the store level separated for no reason? If he had the level D wolf blade, he would have been able to take it on alone but it was a pity.

Kihik!

Kiki!

"There are 2 of them."

There is no particular characteristic to the sound. They need to see it for themselves to know. It could probably rip an iron door as if it is paper, but it does not come in. They seem to be under the nest's command.

-[Snipers, please get into position where you have a good view of the passage.]

-[Install your Craymores and support with fire power against whatever comes from the head. The people with grenade launchers, please wait on the side.]

Their roles are distributed. If a mutant comes in through the passage, there was enough fire power aimed at it to take care of it whether it is a level 3 or 4.

There is confidence in the Lifers' expressions. It can never get through this.

Try coming at them.

Chapter 47

Blood dripping from the stomach flows down the leg. The Lifer who had radioed in was hanging 2 meters in the air.

6 nails that were like a rake had penetrated his stomach, and came out. They are almost 1m long. A lifeless body hit the cold cement.

A forked tongue covered in yellow bumps licked the blood on its nails.

Kihik!

It looks around the area. There are objects born from the matrix and pieces of meat with sweet scents everywhere. It is a favorable scene.

-[Sniper...]

-[Craymore...]

The Lifers could sense movement beyond the door. Even though they could not see it, they could hear it and their emotions showed in their sweat.

After taking a few steps, it is at the door. As large as it is, its strides are long.

It can see a Crawlion leaning lifeless on the door. It is a hindrance to its focus. It grabbed the Crawlion by the head and flung it to the side. A 200kg weight hit the ground.

Kikik!

Kyak!

Another of the same type appeared. Brothers born at the same time, their appearance and ability to fight were the same. The two mutants recognized each other.

They both thought. Should they break the door? They could crush it with one or two hits. Should they crush it and go in to fill their stomachs with the blood and guts of

weak beings?

Kung!

Kyak!

The nest stopped them and gave them a different order.

They made a fuss and gathered the corpses in one place. They even made sure to pick up the small pieces. They did not separate the mutants and humans.

A large lump detached itself from the nest's main body, crawled down, and swallowed the corpses. It is getting supplements by consuming nutrients.

It spit out the gear that it cannot digest and even sucked the bones of what it could digest. With this amount, it would not need to worry about food for a while.

The lump that absorbed the corpses went back to the main body and supplied it with rich nutrients. It went back to a healthier state than before it had given birth.

Woowoo!

Kyahak!

The nest gave its 2nd order. Because the creatures are large, it is dangerous to go through the passage. They need to find a path where they will not be attacked.

Papat!

Kwajik!

They searched through the rest area, broke a door on the east side, and entered the warehouse.

Kihaek!

They disappeared into the warehouse and the rest area fell into silence. The nest trusted the creatures and produced 26 eggs. They are all level 2 mutants.

The creatures surprise attack the force from the back and the level 2 mutants can join

to spread confusion. That is the nest's plan.

Oh!

Level 2 mutants are born. They varied by specialty in those with sturdy skin, petite and fast bodies, and large with strength.

The nest had distributed roles just as the force did. It did not know if the force members knew this or not, and was just waiting for the door to open.



The snipers climbed to the top of a container box.

No matter how much they look around, this is the best place as there are no obstructions and it is high up. It is refreshing because they have a view of everything.

If they need to shoot from the bottom, they could. They could stay in a corner.

There is a worst case scenario. If the mutants get through the passage and go to the warehouse, a higher place is best.

"I can see well."

Park Jin Hyuk put his eye to the scope to check the passage. It seems they could see everything from the bottom, but the view is clearly different from the top.

He changed the scope. The long-range expands too much, so it disturbs the short-range. A proper sniper has 3 or 4 scopes to fit distance.

"If they come in, I'll have to hit all of them."

Hihit!

Park Jin Hyuk got in position 25m away from the passage. Of the 7 snipers on top of the container box, he was closest.

He could not know the other Lifers' sniper skills, but being closer is better if the speed of their bullets is similar. That is of course if the passage is open.

Crunch.

“Huh?”

Is someone grinding his teeth? Park Jin Hyuk tilted his head and looked behind him.

He sees snipers. They all have their faces on the container box. Their necks are stiff from keeping their eyes on the scope.

If they rest, there is less of a burden if battle starts.

“I’ll have to rest too.”

Tung!

Park Jin Hyuk laid on his stomach comfortably as well. If it becomes noisy outside, there will be a signal from under them. He will last longer if he starts abusing his neck from then.

Shashak!

“Who’s been playing around since before?”

Someone is grinding his teeth and blowing into the air. It is bothering him.

“Uh...?”

He turned his head again and his thoughts became paralyzed.

He could not tell if what he is seeing is a dream or if it is real. A monster one and a half times the size of a Crawlion was sticking its tongue out.

Spat!

Ugh!

It was just a short moment of 1 second. Park Jin Hyuk fell off of the container box as he tried to avoid the tongue from reaching his neck.

Shoong!

He did not fall without doing anything. He threw any of the grenades that he could get his hands on. He was not able to check the type. He did not have the time to do that.

Bang!

As the impact grenade went off, the container box was crushed. The force members' attention went to the source of the explosion. Then they saw the mutant's body leaping to the side.

"It's a Spectre!"

It is 3 to 4 times the size of a human, has long malformed arms and legs, 12 rake-like nails, and it is as fast as a Slayer.

[Groups 1 and 2, check the passage. Group 3, fall back and face the Spectre!]

Chun Myung Ik determined the situation as the master of a large guild should. He did not know what had happened, but it had come in already. They need to end it before the situation worsens.

Pew pew pew pew!

Dozens of Lifers brandished SMGs. The Spectre climbed the ceiling and walls to avoid the shower of bullets. It moves like a ghost.

Then it disappeared among hundreds of container boxes. They failed.

-[Put on your vision goggles!]

All of the force members wore their vision goggles. They would not perform to the fullest because of the thickness and number of container boxes, but they had to put them on.

Zing!

The sensor could not get past 2 of them and got stuck on the way.

-[Sniper, sniper respond.]

-[Everyone will have died. I think I was the last.]

Park Jin Hyuk spoke. The Spectre had been going for his neck to break it.

It seems like what he thought had been the sound of teeth grinding was the sound of a neck breaking.

If he had not been able to detect the Spectre's movement with his senses enhanced through body modification, he would have fallen to the same fate as the other snipers.

'Where did it come from?'

The Spectre made a round in the next passage. It had tracked the body odor of the force to come through the ceiling of the cargo lift.

It had not made any sounds because it cut through it carefully with its nails.

Everyone had been moving busily. Even if there had been a sound, the force would not have been able to hear it unless it was loud because it was so far away.

The Spectre handled the easy targets first. That was the snipers.

The reason why it left its nails and used its tongue to break their necks? It wanted to avoid having the other Lifers detect the smell of blood.

-[It might go through the passage after creating confusion, so... Huk!]

Sukukuk!

Chun Myung Ik and Oh Min Ho got flat on the ground. Another Spectre appeared out of nowhere and waved its nails.

Kuhuk!

Kyah!

Its long arms and nails swung around a 7 meter radius. Excluding the 2 who had reflexively gotten on the floor, 3 Lifers got caught on the nails and were ripped into pieces.

'Hocheon is going to attempt a level D, too? Give some advice, not interference. Stay focused if you don't want to be wiped out. It is completely different from level E.'

Chun Myung Ik suddenly remembered what he said a few days before launching the mission.

‘Do you think it’s pathetic that 50 people die at a time? Try going. You’ll know if you go.’

29 people died already. But the danger had not passed. Rather, it is getting worse as they go. Annihilation? This is not a dream.

Chapter 48

Kihik!

The Spectre that made a fuss in the middle of the force fled the spot without delay. It wanted to escape without getting greedy.

Somehow, it escaped to the spot where Park Jin Hyuk was standing. He was clenching his teeth and holding an automatic crossbow. His rifle is on the container box.

“Hey, what are you going to do with that? Get down!”

Seuk!

Pang!

Park Jin Hyuk quickly bent over. Cha Jun Sung appeared from behind and jumped a few meters into the air. He pulled the sword from his belt and brandished it.

Cheng!

The Spectre swished its nails and blocked the sword. The repulsive force was great even though its muscular strength is incredible. However, it did not back down.

Chechechecheng!

Cha Jun Sung fought with the Spectre. The force could not shoot. They were moving around so much that they could hit him by accident.

Klunk!

While Cha Jun Sung bought time, Park Jin Hyuk climbed up the container box and retrieved his rifle. He did not go back down. He aimed at the Spectre right away.

Bang bang!

“Mutants entered the passage!”

“Diversion tactic?”

The iron door was torn off. A mutant that looked as if it was wearing iron armor all over its body, walked into the passage. Just by looking at it, it was clear it had the role of a tank.

Pipipiping!

Bullets bounce off of its body. The Tanker covered its face with both arms and it was as though a barricade was coming through.

It is a species that had not been seen in the virtual version. The nest could identify the force's weapons and style to create new mutants to take them on.

It is pushing through. Guns do not work. They need to raise their fire power.

Kwang!

The Claymore went off. The Spectre's defense must not work against a bomb, because its arm fell off. They had no time to suspect that it was dead.

“Keep setting them off! Throw bombs too! Grenades too! They're coming at us in a line!”

There was not just 1 Tanker. Excluding the one that is dead, there were 7 of them.

The Tankers did not advance together. If the Claymore goes off, they would all feel the impact. They came in sequentially, a few meters apart.

Impact and shot grenades only buy a bit of time. Shot grenades had less effect in particular because are for noise rather than destruction.

Pupupupung!

They were through the Claymores they had installed ahead of time. It is dangerous, but they even threw them and then clicked the switch. They need to block the advance in any way they can.

“Push forward!”

“I’ll wrap it up!”

After killing without thought, only 1 Tanker was left. It would be over with 2 grenades. They could kill the Crawlion outside with a gun.

The Lifer who was about to throw the grenade felt pain in his neck and touched it. Blood was flowing out. He lost strength and fell to the ground.

Kikik!

Kya kya!

A Snatcher cut the Lifer’s neck and immediately changed its target. It is a level 2 mutant as small as a Kawod, but with blades like scythes on its elbows.

Ack!

Ack!

There are 10 of them. It used its speed to fly around the area.

The Snatchers followed the path the Spectre had taken. Since the Tankers and Crawlions cannot climb walls, they had the role of diverting attention.

The nest’s diversion tactic created chaos in the warehouse.

Kung!

When the Snatchers’ entry halted the attack, the 8 Crawlions that had been waiting got through the passage while wielding their muscles. They had started battle.

The defensive ring that they had thought to be sturdy, had easily come apart.

Pew pew!

Puk puk!

2 shots that had been waiting punctured holes in the head of one Snatcher that was climbing on top of a Lifer. It flailed and died.

Kiak!

Pat pat.

As the Snatchers scattered, they figured out the source of the bullets. There is an enemy aiming at them from a high position. They need to get rid of the bothersome enemies first.

“Tsk!”

Tak!

Park Jin Hyuk put his gun down and jumped to another container box. Aiming at such a fast and continuously moving target is useless.

Pat!

He moved a distance of 5 to 6 meters in one go. He fell back and had his automatic crossbow ready for attack. The Snatchers hid their bodies at the siege of arrows.

They run on the sides and ceilings of container boxes to chase after Park Jin Hyuk. Even with his body modification, they caught up to him quickly because it is a limited distance.

Seureung!

“You think I’ll lose to guys smaller than me? You little kids!”

Park Jin Hyuk went at them with a dagger in his left hand and an automatic crossbow in his right. With his current senses, he could detect the Snatchers’ movements.

Snatchers are really nothing if he is just careful with their speed and the blades on their elbows. They have poor stamina, so the situation is over with one arrow.



Jjung!

Keuk!

Cha Jun Sung took a few steps backwards. He was dizzy from the Spectre's attack. It went for all parts of his body – if he avoided its nails, he had to watch out for its tongue.

Its tongue changes shape freely. Long to try and catch him, sharp to stab him, and blunt to hit him. It used various methods to bother Cha Jun Sung.

He yielded his sword multiple times, but it bounced off like it is rubber and he did not even leave a wound. It is also so strong that he almost had his sword taken away.

Hab!

Cha Jun Sung shouted and ran at the Spectre. He matched the speed he was running at and cut horizontally with his sword.

The Spectre's lower body pressed to the ground. It hit the side of the container box, stuck to the wall, and hit Cha Jun Sung's back with its tongue.

Bang!

Cha Jun Sung fell. It felt like he had been beaten with a club.

It would be easier to handle if he could just incapacitate its tongue, but it provides him with a physical challenge when it can reach a distance of over 5 meters.

'If only I had the blade!'

The blade has the strength to cut through cement. If he incapacitates the Spectre's tongue and nails, all that is left is its physical ability.

If there is too much of a difference in the level of the mutant that he needs to face, it will not be able to handle even with good gear. However, he could take on a Spectre.

Pew pew!

His red fire drew a line on the wall that the Spectre is stuck to. Even when he identifies its movements and fires in the expected direction, it moves to avoid all of the shots.

Kik!

The Spectre was also annoyed. Its instinct is at work, telling it not to lose the prey it

had focused on. But that prey is stronger than it thought it would be.

Tatang!

“Over there! Chase it!”

“Catch it!”

The Lifers corner the Spectre. As there are so many of them, the Spectre had small wounds every time it killed a Lifer.

Park Jin Hyuk is in a bloody battle with 8 Snatchers from the top of a container box. And the passage is chaotic because of the Crawlion.

Kiang!

The Spectre that Cha Jun Sung was fighting with requested help from its brother.

If it leaves this prey and goes, there will be problems. It is not systematic thought, but it just felt that way.

“Where are you trying to go?”

Cha Jun Sung smirked. If its thoughts are elsewhere, it cannot focus on what it needs to do.

That is the same for humans and mutants. The Spectre was already conflicted between its instinct to kill Cha Jun Sung and the thought that it needs to save its brother.

Kyah!

The Spectre that the Lifers had cornered, expressed its pain. If it stays in one place for even a moment, dozens of bullets follow it. It needs to move without resting.

The Lifers beat the Spectre in a fight of volume. Unless it is extremely strong, it cannot underestimate the difference in numbers.

Twang!

The Spectre made up its mind and got on the wall to go to its brother.

“I won’t let you go!”

Cha Jun Sung stepped on the container box and went up. He cannot ride the walls or ceiling like mutants can, but it is possible for him to chase it with the current state of his body.

Pew pew!

He used his red fire to make it go in the direction that he wanted it to go in. A few bullets hit it, but it did not penetrate the muscle because the fire power is weak.

Kyak!

“There’s another Spectre!”

“Even the one that was running away is coming back!”

The Spectre that Cha Jun Sung is chasing swiped at the side of the Lifers. To make matters worse, the one that had been running away changed its course and came down.

The troops are collapsing under the Spectres. It is normally a power that they can cope with, but the Lifers were stopped under an attack while they had their guard down.

“It’s here!”

Cha Jun Sung had his sword held inverted and jumped from a container box. The Spectre that had been fighting with him saw him and moved to avoid him. It knows that he is dangerous.

However, the other Spectre was drunk on slaughter and instead of moving, it scratched with its nail.

Cha Jun Sung turned in the air, avoided the nail, and stuck the sword in the Spectre’s head. It is its fault for mistaking Cha Jun Sung as an average human.

Kyak!

The Spectre's brain had been penetrated, and it screamed and flailed to try to remove the sword. It was no use. Even if it got the sword out, the wound is there. It will die.

Chapter 49

Clunk!

The 3 meter body of the Spectre lost strength and fell to the ground. The floor rang under the weight.

-[You have acquired 1800 points.]

“You’re giving a lot.”

Every level jumps by 10 times the points before, so level 1 is 10 to 20, level 2 is 100 to 200.

Points are separated into 5 stages, and one can confirm the level of a mutant he catches by getting 200. It means that Spectres are top level.

The Lifers could not take their eyes off of Cha Jun Sung. Even though it is a surprise attack, he killed a level 3. The way he moved before that was extraordinary as well.

Kyak!

The angry Spectre glared at Cha Jun Sung. Its brother had died of an error in judgment.

“You regret it, right?”

Puk!

Cha Jun Sung recovered his sword from the dead Spectre’s head and shook the blood off. He wanted to end that one too, but he had something to do.

If he killed one, he had done his duty. He would leave the rest to the other Lifers.

“You kill them.”

“Help us! We ask you respectfully! It’s taking a toll on us!”

The Lifers beg Cha Jun Sung. 5 people died while chasing the Spectres. With the members now, a few more will die.

"I'm sorry, but I have a friend. His safety is priority."

He had discovered Park Jin Hyuk while crossing the container boxes. He was fighting Snatchers from a corner. Support? He was alone.

Park Jin Hyuk is weak in a melee. He can hold out now, but he will soon reach his last. He needs to get to him as quickly as possible. He cannot waste time here.

Cha Jun Sung squinted at the Spectre and moved. It is a problem if it follows him. Fortunately, it did not follow him. The Lifers bothered the Spectre as well.

Kwakwang!

A dark heat comes in from the passage. There are no level 3 mutants and it is dense with the most powerful of the force. There is less and less noise.

It must be the end.

Tu tu!

Battle with the Spectre begins again as well. He was sorry, but he only has one body. Cha Jun Sung aimed his red fire at the Snatchers.

Pew!

The Snatcher's body plunges and hits under the container box. No matter how fast they are, they cannot avoid the shots unless they have eyes on the back of their heads.

Pew pew!

"You're here?"

"How many are you fighting?"

"8."

"I saw 5, I killed 1, so you killed 3?"

Blood covered Park Jin Hyuk's gear. It is a mix of the Snatchers' blood and his own. He has a lot of wounds where he was ripped and stabbed. They are signs of struggle.

Kik!

4 Snatchers are wary of Cha Jun Sung. He looks larger and stronger than Park Jin Hyuk. They get farther away from him if he even scares them a little.

"Rest. I'll take care of it."

"Oy!"

Park Jin Hyuk sat on the floor. It is not a joke. He had spoken like he was joking, but he really is tired. What would have happened if Cha Jun Sung had been late?

Kyak!

They are just 4 Snatchers. There is nothing they could do against Cha Jun Sung with his sword and gun. If they try anything, they die? Their intestines were cleaned up.



Bang!

The Crawlion's chest was split open after he was hit by the grenade launcher, and fell over.

The Lifers look at the passage with hope. Please stop coming!

Following level 2 and 3 mutants, level 1 mutants came out to bother the Lifers. Even if runs come at them, they are on the brink of insanity because it is so chaotic.

"It's, it's over!"

"Wow!"

"The nest stopped producing!"

Mutants do not come in anymore. It seems it has consumed all of the nutrients and cells necessary for production. In the end, the Lifers had won.

Among the celebrating Lifers, Chun Myung Ik looked uncomfortable. He had expected for there to be casualties before progressing with the mission.

But he had not calculated this much. They had built a tight defensive ring in the warehouse. The mutants had taken it apart completely.

Groups 1, 2, and 4 of 60 people had been focused on the passage. Group 4 was made up of the Lifers who had accepted Hocheon guild's invitation.

Since group 3 was put up against the Spectres, they could see the damage situation upon their return.

"How many people died?"

"9 people from group 1, 2 from group 8, 6 from group 4. Group 4 includes the snipers. It seems a lot of them survived because their skill and equipment are at the level of raid leaders."

Oh Min Ho looked haggard as he gave his report. 23 people died in 3 groups. It is not what they had expected, but it is better than failing the mission.

-[Master, we handled the Spectres.]

-[Losses?]

-[... 1 raid leader, 3 guild members, and 6 external members died.]

That is 10 people.

Then combining 20, 23, 10 people, there were a total of 53 dead.

47 survivors. He almost laughed out of disbelief. They can consider the first 20 as people they had sacrificed with consideration for the future.

33 people! His warning that it could be annihilation if they let their guards down, was real.

-[What's left?]

There is nothing. Since they took care of the passage, they had killed all mutants that

the nest had produced. Now if they kill the nest and cross through the rest area, the mission is complete.

-[Did you figure out how they got in?]

-[They ripped through the ceiling of the cargo lifts we came in.]

This experience made the large guild understand how it had met a strong opponent and had suffered such severe damages in their first attempt.

If they had known that the mutants would go around the warehouse to come in, they would have distributed the power instead of focusing it at the passage. If they had done that, the mutants would not have gotten through.

'I'm confident we can reduce the losses to under 20 in the next challenge.'

Information is power that is not visible. If large guilds that had completed the mission before Hocheon, had shared this information, they would have gone through it comparatively easily.

-[Who killed the Spectre?]

-[The chief killed one and number 617 killed the other.]

-[Number 617?]

-[Yes. And he and number 429 took care of 10 Snatchers.]

2 people taking on that many mutants? Chun Myung Ik remembered seeing Cha Jun Sung fighting the Spectre with his sword before he moved away.

-[Uh... Master.]

-[Speak.]

-[I think number 617 went through body modification.]

-[I know that much too. You think it would be his bare body when he is running at a Spectre?]

He had gone at a level 3 mutant with cutlery. He is either brave or crazy. But neither are applicable. It has to be body modification.

-[I believe it is the 2nd stage.]

-[What?]

The raid leader gave his explanation with a mix of what he saw and his personal opinion.

Cha Jun Sung jumped from a 7 meter high, 3 story container box and while avoiding the Spectre's attack, stabbed it in the head with his sword.

'There's someone other than that guy who's gone through the 2nd stage of body modification?'

From what Chun Myung Ik knows, there is only 1 other person who has gone through the 2nd stage of body modification. There could be other Lifers, but it was hard for him to believe that.

-[Alright.]

They are holding on for now. They need to complete the mission first. As the situation became stabilized, the scattered Lifers gathered in the passage. They all looked battered.

There were a lot of injured. They take medicine out from their packs and space compression bag to treat their wounds. Unfortunately, none of the Lifers have medical equipment.

"Not even a large guild has a medic."

"It was a unique profession even in the virtual version. If you do that, you get sick from anger."

A medic is a non-combat job specializing in treatment, but its ability to attack is terrible.

In the virtual version, they are at the lowest ranking. It is a time when points push back money. Is there a Lifer willing to purchase expensive medical equipment to give

free services?

They need to save all of the points they would have used on weapons and equipment to be able to purchase middle standard medical equipment from level D. It is not easy even with help from a large guild.

-[The injured rest, and everyone else will go to kill the nest. It's tired. The only mutants it'll be able to produce are level 1 or 2.]

The nest does not produce on nutrients alone. As it is a hermaphrodite, it needs the cells corresponding with the level. If it is freshly evolved, 2 mutants is its limit.

-[Let's end it. This mission.]

The force follows Chun Myung Ik. The time to end it is approaching.

Chapter 50

The nest died uneventfully. It consumed all of its nutrients and cells and there was not much of a fight. After that, they arrived at the completion area without problems.

Ding.

There are moments when the annoying helper seems lovable. It is when the heavenly voice whispers to them after they have been waiting for it.

If they complete a mission, they gather points. With it, even a lucky box. They can only receive the lucky box in the briefing room. They can check it later.

“I guess it’s a surprise.”

“I want to hurry up and open it.”

It is a reward given to Lifers with the completion of a level D mission and points.

If they are unlucky, it is worth 1 point and if they are lucky, gear worth thousands of points could come out. That is why it is a surprise of luck.

The probabilities are terrible. In the countless comments regarding the box, there are very few Lifers who received boxes with gear that is of any use to them.

As it is possible to deals, there are many Lifers who hoard them.

-[I will purchase lucky boxes for \$100,000 each. Does anyone have intentions to sell theirs?]

Chun Myung Ik looked at the Lifers as he spoke. A few people raised their hands to say that they would sell theirs. Cha Jun Sung did not respond. He is geared toward thrill more than money.

Just as people’s personalities are different, their values are all different. If not, would he have used everything on the ultimate Hades blade?

The Lifers who said that they would sell, were not doing it because they need the money. They would rather ensure getting \$100,000 out of this gamble instead of ending up with nothing.

-[Daeho Group has prepared a small banquet for you all. We hope everyone will attend as we intend to offer the best services.]

Cha Jun Sung was thinking of returning home. What banquet when he is so tired, he is on the verge of collapsing? The people who would attend are Hocheon guild members and the Lifers who want to join.

They had been stuck together for a week. You stick with your people, not others. This is visible just in the way that Hocheon handles Lifers.

-[Alright, let's return to Hocheon's auditorium...]

Kyak!

Chun Myung Ik could not finish his words. As he was about to finish, an ear-splitting high tone shriek swept over the 47 Lifers like a wave.

The location of the shriek? It is to the side of the direction that they are standing in. It is blocked by an iron door that leads to the second half.

It seems a mutant is excited because it smelled the Lifers and heard them talking. It seems to be a level 4. If it comes out at them, it is annihilation for the force.

Bang bang!

Kyak!

The iron door shakes as if it is going to come crashing down. It did not break down easily because it looked as though it would hold up against a truck.

"I, I want to go back!"

"Me too!"

Zing!

The Lifers start to return. If they are caught while hesitating, they die even after completing the mission. They do not want to be in that situation.

“The door is stable.”

“If it were to come down easily, it would not have been a 5000 point mission in the first place. It could come out any time it wants and make a fuss.”

They could not know what type of mutant it is, but it is blocking the door to go outside. Or it is not a size that allows it to go out.

‘If I can figure out its identity, I can prepare for it, won’t I?’

Woong!

Cha Jun Sung turned on his recording function. If you know your enemy, you can win every battle.

There are countless mutants in different ways on his blog. He thought there would be results if he could compare them to reduce the deaths.

‘Forget it if not.’

Not all mutants are there. If he cannot find them, he cannot find them.

Seureuk!

Did it tire itself out while making a fuss? The sound of it was getting farther away from the iron door.

“It took everything.”

“What?”

Clues come from the small things. It took everything. This is important.

“Let’s go back. I need to dig through the blog.”

“Unlock it. I want to see it too.”

“Alright. I’ll go and add a friend to it.”

“Woo!”

When he told Park Jin Hyuk who Campbell is, he had revealed that he is Overload. He was surprised at first, but he is now used to it.

Woong!

Since they returned as though running away, there were not even 10 people left. Most are in Hocheon.

“Number 617? Mr. Ch Jun Sung?”

“Do you need something?”

Chun Myung Ik approached him. When the Lifer registration system was formed, helper names became useless. The Lifer registration card had replaced citizen registration cards.

“Are you attending the banquet?”

“No.”

Attend? Do they think he will? He is satisfied with having participated in a level D mission. He is totally against anything bothersome. He needs to rest at home and there are a few things he needs to take care of.

“It’s not something to discuss here. Can we go somewhere to talk?”

“Sorry. I don’t want to get involved with a large guild in any way. I have nothing to give and nothing to get. I’ll be leaving first.”

Syuk!

Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk returned home. If they are going to cut them off, they need to do it for sure. It becomes a problem if they leave it up for question.

Chun Myung Ik and Hocheon did not move as if they were nailed to the spot. As it happened so suddenly, it took them some time to understand the situation.

Chun Myung Ik grinded his teeth. He had been rejected unilaterally. Why are people so full of themselves? Cha Jun Sung and that guy had their noses up to the sky.

“Should I go catch them?”

“Leave them. We’ll calm the guild down first.”

He was about to agree with Oh Min Ho’s expression, but settled his anger first. There are a lot of damages. They need to clean up the mess and advertise their mission completion.

“This is Hocheon’s jurisdiction. Let’s gather strength for a few months and make an attempt.”

Since there is no name to the mission, they would have had nothing to say if they had been cut in line. However, level D missions surpass level E by a lot.

There is almost no probability in overlapping unless they seek out the biology institute on purpose. As much as missions reduce with completions, they are regenerated.

‘His name is Cha Jun Sung.’

He had met someone similar to him. He is not someone he can forget even if he tried.



Inside the biology institute. A lot of things were created at the same time including food storage, hospital, warehouse, and a summons gate. One of the bunch comes out from that place.

“The gate closes after 3 hours. We need to move the material in there.”

“Okay!”

There is food and medicine for hundreds of people. They can rip off the container box put the materials past the gate. He seems like a Lifer, but there is something different.

He can even lightly lift a 300kg piece of metal. He has the power of 100 people.

The speed at which they move the material is fast because there are a lot of people, but it still took them 2 hours and 50 minutes to finish the job.

“Whew! I was wondering how long we would have to do this for.”

A middle-aged man who looked to be the leader, put out his cigarette. It is a bore.

Smoke comes out and scatters. It feels like a life in vain. If the time to slack for Lifers is short, it is 3 years, 5 if it is long.

“Time is almost over!”

“Alright.”

The man puts his cigarette out. They need to return to that awful place. Hundreds of people went through the gate. The warehouse became busy.

Chapter 51

Han Chang Jin mobilized the network he had built in the virtual version to find Ghost Gun.

There is nothing he could do about the people he had met in passing, but there are a few Lifers he had exchanged contact information with. He rode them over and over again.

He was able to find out Ghost Gun's identity in a matter of 3 months, and they are facing each other now. He had one thought after finding Ghost.

Ghost Gun is in the dark. He is hard to find. Han Chang Jin and Ghost Gun are not personal acquaintances, but he is someone so famous that everyone in Korea knows who he is.

He is a good looking man with a gentle smile. He prepared coffee pods as though they are from a luxurious drip.

Strangely, it was like watching a scene from a commercial he appears in.

Ghost Gun is Lim Si Hyun. One of the top 5 actors in Korea and the master of a large guild sponsored by Chilsung Group.

Maybe because the master is an actor, they have their fair share of celebrities.

Lim Si Hyun is a distant nephew of the owner of Chilsung. There is not a tremendous reason why this distant cousin became master of the guild above other linear relatives.

None of the Chairman's relatives showed excellence as a Lifer. Since he could not leave it to someone else, he had put Lim Si Hyun in the position.

As it was nearing the end of his exclusive contract, he did not say no. His life as an actor is fun too, but it is nothing compared to his life as a Lifer.

"It's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Han Chang Jin."

“I’m Lim Si Hyun, leading the 7 Stars.”

They introduced themselves to each other. They know the basic information on each other, but it is courtesy to give formal introductions.

Not too long ago, Lim Si Hyun heard rumors that someone was looking for him. When he heard that the person he would have to meet is Iron King, he allowed for the meeting.

Iron King is a fellow Korean and has a good reputation. He is also a soldier. It is fitting for his reputation as someone with a rigid personality.

“I got here after going through 4 of China’s ports for the first time.”

“I heard from Nuclear. Since the 36 rankers keep to themselves, I heard the rumor that you were looking for me.”

The virtual world map has a 1:1 ratio with the earth. Because of this, the 36 rankers have no way of meeting unless they operate in the same region.

“It has become a complicated world. I needed to meet you no matter what.”

“Let’s get to the point.”

Lim Si Hyun’s tone became serious. Judging by Han Chang Jin’s attitude, it did not seem like he had ulterior motives. His profession is also ordinary.

Is the government on the move? He had thought that it had been strangely quiet. It is a thought that anyone could have unless they are dumb.

“Lim Si Hyun, there are 2 reasons why I came looking for you on behalf of the nation.”

“So it is the government. Is it the President?”

“Yes.”

“I’ll listen.”

“Sorry, but I have one question first. I can complete a 3000 point level E mission by myself. Are you able to do that as well?”

“Can I think of this as your way to judge whether or not I am of value?”

Han Chang Jin bunched his lips. He had pointed it out correctly. He had the feeling that the situation is, ‘I did come looking for you, but I’m going to turn around now if you have no value.’

“I’ll tell you. As of now, I can complete it by myself in 5 days.”

Han Chang Jin’s expression became prudent. It is as he had expected. The 36 rankers are using what they know from the virtual version to advance faster than others.

Reality and virtual are different? It is true. Could someone who was not able to stand above others in the virtual version, be able to do so in reality?

He got to the conclusion.

Never!

It is impossible.

“I apologize if I offended you.”

“It’s nothing. It is true I’m offended that I’m being judged, but it’s something to be happy about to be recognized by someone of the same class.”

Lim Si Hyung laughed. He has a refreshing personality. He was not snobby and was easy unlike the rich. He is worthy of leading 7 Stars.

“What I saw from now on is a national secret, so only you need to know this.”

“I’m nervous.”

Han Chang Jin started speaking. A Lifer organization operated by nations all over the world has been created, and it is nearly completed.

Anything could become a reason for it, but the main purpose is world peace.

If they want to live as they did before the real version appeared, the government needs to hold the power. If it loses the power, it is the return of the Dark Ages.

Nations that normally have close relationships share information and show signs of forming alliances.

“In just the exposed part, 7 of the 36 rankers are included.”

“Are you talking about a mutual aid?”

“What do you think if the most powerful of each country link together to complete missions?”

They are each famous players in the virtual version. There are 5 Lifers who have the best equipment in level E and D, and have gone through the 2nd stage of body modifications?

Level D where level 4 mutants appear will be difficult, but they could do whatever they wanted in those lower. Since their professions are all different, they could anticipate the synergy.

There is a turbo engine on their speed in advancing, and they could reach level C in a short amount of time. This is incredible information.

“Are you telling me to commit myself to the government or register in the alliance?”

“You said mutual aid, right? If you need us or we need you, we can help each other according to the situation.”

As it is not just the government, but a worldwide gathering, it surpasses the category of the powerful. In a small scale, it is 7 Stars. Large, it is bringing Chilsung to the world.

“So you’re trying to subsume me. Are there other Lifers who received this proposal?”

“There is a Lifer who will hear it, but you are the first. And that is the 2nd reason why I came looking for you.”

“The 2nd reason?”

“Are you able to get in contact with Overload? There’s no way to find him.”

“Overload... I see. He existed. I had forgotten.”

By name, he is 1st in the Life Mission ranking. He is a legend in the virtual version as the only Lifer who succeeded in the level 9 Evil Queen raid. Lim Si Hyun had been forgetting because his daily life was so busy.

“I’m sorry, but I don’t have contact with him either. He’s a Lifer focused on solo plays... Oh right. Doesn’t he run a blog?”

Lim Si Hyun had also enjoyed looking up information on the blog. A lot of what they knew overlapped, but the videos were as fun as watching a movie.

“We would be able to find him if we track the IP address, but we believe that might just be counterproductive.”

“Even if you find him through normal means, I don’t think he’ll join the federation. He resisted the seduction of all large guilds in the virtual version as well.”

Han Chang Jin knew that aspect well. He wanted to give advice if he could.

If they maintain a friendly relationship, he might be able to request aid at a later time. Creating ties is the primary goal.

There is nothing to lose in creating friendly ties with any of the 36 rankers, excluding a few crazy people. They will become reliable reinforcements.

“What do you think about sending a note on the blog? He’ll read it.”

“It’s of no use.”

He tried sending notes several times. Each time, there was no response. Cha Jun Sung was either reading and ignoring them, or putting them in Trash because he could not be bothered with reading them.

“We cannot even put up a notice that we are looking for Overload because we could run into trouble regarding personal privacy issues. This is very frustrating.”

Lim Si Hyun scratched his forehead.

Han Chang Jin was awkward in embarrassment. Truthfully, he had not put that much effort into looking for Cha Jun Sung. He was only pretending to look.

“He’ll meet with you if you tell him that you’re Iron King.”

“Will he?”

The Cha Jun Sung that Lim Si Hyun knew was not so stiff. He is rather open. He is like any other Lifer, it is just that he prefers to play solo/

“If the 3 people in Korea get together, we could complete a level D mission as a party.”

The government had its eyes set on 10,000 points. 7 Stars will be similar. The level D advance mission is 20,000 points. With 10,000 points, a level 4 mutant could come out.

“7 Stars is trying to gather talent with 9000 points on the fringe.”

“Likewise for the government.”

Solo missions are impossible in level D. The level 4 mutants are too strong for someone to take them on alone. It is a suicide mission even with class D gear.

A small group could take it on if the mission is under 10,000 points, but filling all 100 spots for anything above that gives them a better chance at surviving.

They had a long conversation. They spoke for a few hours before coming to a close.

“Since I cannot decide this easily, I will consider this issue of registration.”

“I’ll hope for good results.”

Lim Si Hyun asked for contact information, saying that he would notify him of his decision within a few days. Han Chang Jin left his information happily.

Though he had not been able to find Overload, it is fortunate that Lim Si Hyun’s reaction was so positive. Certainty is better than uncertainty.

Chapter 52

Knock knock!

As soon as Han Chang Jin left the office, a Lifer came in.

“Master, Hocheon completed the biology institute mission and returned.”

“Did Chun Myung Ik do well?”

“Other than his selfishness, he is alright but they suffered a lot of damages because the mutants attacked them from behind. I almost died as well.”

This Lifer who had applied to participate in Hocheon’s force was planted as a monitor. It was not for ill intentions. The intention was to see if they did well or not.

The Lifer explained the process. Lim Si Hyun nodded. A lot of people died. It is worse than the average. At any rate, Chun Myung Ik will not do.

“That guy thinks he’s a fox when he’s really just a dog.”

He is in the dog species, but falls short. To be selfish in a mission that he is risking his life for. It is behavior that is not appropriate for the head of a large guild.

“And I discovered a Lifer who stood out during the mission.”

“Tell me.”

“Lifers were being devastated by a level 3 Spectre when he started a battle with just a sword. He did get pushed back, but it was impressive.”

The Spectre had underestimated him and put its guard down, but he had stuck a sword in its head.

“A Spectre?”

“Yes.”

A level 3 with just one sword? Not even Lim Si Hyun had that kind of confidence.

“Wait! Did you just say sword? Do you know his name or anything?”

“Cha Jun Sung? He was number 617.”

“Well... I don’t really want to, but I guess I’ll have to meet with loser Chun Myung Ik.”

To become connected like this. Strange things happen in the world.

The reason why Han Chang Jin came looking for him. The Lifer in question who killed a Spectre with a sword. Overload’s weapon? A sword. Doesn’t everything seem to fit together?

“You did well. We’ll do 10,000 points for you as a prize.”

“Thank you!”

The Lifer’s face brightened. If he keeps stacking results, he will be promoted.

Lim Si Hyun is fair. If someone is skilled and devotes himself to the guild, he is given a position even if he is a low employee. There had actually been a few cases where that happened.

“I want to get to know him. While Iron King sends notes, shall I see his face?”

He could not be sure if he would be able to meet Cha Jun Sung or not, but he would be able to get simple information if he plays Chun Myung Ik gently.

He will have to reveal a tiny bit of know-how for level D missions in exchange.



Kung!

Woah!

Cha Jun Sung locked himself in his room and went through the blog he had run for 10 years. He replayed his videos of battles with level 4 mutants.

It isn't there!

There is no mutant whose sound overlaps with what he recorded in the biology institute. There are similar ones, but they walked around fine.

He recalled what he heard before returning. He is sure it slid on the ground.

Slid? It crawls. It cannot have legs. There is no reason for something to crawl unless it is crippled!

[Lifers, what type of level 4 mutant has a high tone shriek and goes around without legs?]

Cha Jun Sung posted on Lifer World. 99 out of 100 people post insane comments, but 1 of those people is bound to put up a proper post.

[Haze Ghost?] [Haze Ghost has a pretty husky voice. It's a Blood Plant.] [Is the person above me retarded? Blood Plant can't move at all!] [A Saman Viper or Hermit Ear!] [I agree. If you hear a Saman Viper's roar, your eardrums burst.]

All kinds of bizarre mutants are appearing. They are all types that he does not know about because they do not exist in Cha Jun Sung's homeground, South America.

He searched the mutants mentioned in the comments. There was a little information.

It is not the Blood Plant. The great man-eating flower has the attacking power of a level 5 but as a botanical, it cannot move from the ground where it has its roots.

That is why it is ranked a level 4. It cannot be caught with ordinary equipment, but it is just a decorative plant if you do not go 30m near it.

He looked up the Haze Ghost and Hermit Ear as well. These do not seem to be it either. The Lifers opened up a heated debate, but he got a few things out of it.

"Saman Viper?"

It is a large wild viper with 3 eyes. It is as long as the anaconda that appeared in a movie created dozens of years ago, and twice the thickness.

It is a snake, but rips its prey apart to eat it. It has great vision and is fast. It compresses

its muscle and brings the instant velocity of a bullet.

“No, there’s no reason for a snake to be in the lab. I’ll look into it slowly.”

The link mission that appeared when they completed the biology institute is a 12,000 point sample takeover. Unless they go in fully prepared, they are on a train to hell.

[You have a message.]

Click.

Cha Jun Sung ignored the message. Hundreds of them came in everyday. It is a bother to read through each one, so he gathers them to delete them all at once.

The 12th message that Han Chang Jin sent was sent to the trash. Another note from a far away country was buried without knowledge.



A bunch of Caucasian people walked out of the entry gates at Seoul Airport.

They moved with 2 people in the center. A beautiful woman with a cold charm stole everyone’s attention.

One is a man with complaints written on his face. The rest are bodyguards.

“Why do I have to come to a country like this? Hey girl? Say something.”

The man is pestering the woman. She did not even respond. This man is normally ill mannered.

“Where shall we go first?”

“Iron King.”

A delicate voice. They had come to someone else’s land with impure intentions.

They need to reveal their purpose by the Union Federation. Complex steps are burdensome. If they speak with Iron King, they will be taken to the top naturally.

“Oh! Iron King, we’ve fought before. He’s like a wild boar. He’s ignorant.”

The man speaks frivolously. He can become any color. He changes his personality to fit the situation like a chameleon.

“Just be careful from the front.”

“Yeah yeah.”

The man speaks drily. It is obvious that he hears it as nagging.

The woman said it herself, but did not expect much. She needs to get this man to his knees to control him, but she does not have the confidence to do that.

“Ms. Irina, Mr. Burke. The car is ready.”

“Thank you.”

The woman walked away with her long legs in high heels.

Ice Queen Irina Headley.

Boom Busker Burke Petross.

Each have a spot among the 36 rankers and are 2 of the 7 Lifers who have overwhelming support of the American people.

Chapter 53

Han Chang Jin had an unexpected visitor while he was working. Ice Queen and Boom Busker are part of the Federation that will be organized by the American government soon.

Han Chang Jin, these two, and a few others will belong to the Federation.

“Long time no see, Iron King?”

“It has been a while. You haven’t changed at all. You’re exactly the same as you were before.”

Boom Busker is the same as he was in the virtual version with his snobby tone and arrogant behavior. It is inevitable since reality is a mirror of the virtual version.

Why are they in Korea?

Travelling?

That cannot be why. It could be true for Ice Queen, but Boom Busker shows that he was forced to come here. He is engaging in an implicit protest.

“We came because of the subsumption.”

“Subsumption!”

Ice Queen threw a blow. America had made a move after it had been quiet. Which Lifer did they want to subsume that they even sent 2 rankers?

“I’ll reveal our purpose ahead of time so that we can meet Ghost Gun and Overload.”

“Kuk!”

There is a lot of land in America. The population is large as well. The powers had remained quiet until now in order to gather strength while calming their homelands.

They could not afford reach out to other nations. In this aspect, smaller countries are faster than the powers. The stronger they are, the more difficult it is to absorb.

“Are you giving me notice?”

“Because we could not go against the treaty. If you can block it, you can do so.”

How could he block it? No matter how much Lifers have become free of material matters with the increased value of points, one is bound to be seduced by the benefits that a powerful country like America could offer.

Han Chang Jin also had a basic idea that they cannot match up. They are things that cannot be offered even if a few nations like Korea were combined.

Subsumption as a Lifer of another country is left entirely up to the Lifer's will. If the other country reveals its intention to subsume, they cannot do anything to retract it.

“Have you figured out their identities?”

“Yes.”

“How did you do it?”

“I asked Nuclear for Ghost Gun's information, since they have always been in contact.”

Ice Queen only spoke about Lim Si Hyun. Han Chang Jin was sure that the people in the U.S. had not figured out who Cha Jun Sung is.

“I met Mr. Lim Si Hyun a few days ago. I was not able to meet Overload, Mr. Cha Jun Sung, however. Do you really think it is because I can't meet him?”

It is easy to pressure the blog company or to track the IP address.

But he had not done it. If the 1st button is done wrong, nothing changes even if the 2nd is done properly. Human relations are not as simple as clothing.

“Will a man be such a sissy that he gets upset over a bit of hacking?”

Upset? Whose standards is this on? If all people are the same, those are robots. Boom Busker is measuring others purely on his personal standards.

Han Chang Jin ignored him and waited for Ice Queen to speak. America had sent her as a scout. Burke is just baggage.

“I don’t care.”

“You don’t care?”

“I was not part of the cause or process that created the issue. I just need to deliver the message that America wants to give them.”

Even if Cha Jun Sung seems uncomfortable, it is something that the U.S. created. Her duty is done with delivering the message.

Ice Queen got up from her seat. She had revealed her purpose to Han Chang Jin. It is a waste of time to stay any longer. Boom Busker complains that it is a bother.

“I’ll ask just in case. Do you have any thoughts of coming into America?”

“I would go if I were alone, but I have friends and family here along with everything I have worked for so far. I can’t just throw it all away. I’ll just accept the goodwill.”

Ice Queen nodded and did not linger on it. It was an impromptu question. Iron King would not leave Korea, but he had not been included in the candidates for subsumption anyway.

“How long are you thinking of staying here?”

“We’ll stay until we would like to leave or until we are called back by the U.S.”

She does not know the deadline. She intends to stay as long as she can before returning.



“Who are you to tell me to go up there?”

Vroom.

Cha Jun Sung is heading to Hocheon headquarters in his car. He had received a call to the cellphone he had left as his contact while applying for the force. They are asking

him to come just once.

He had told them that he does not want to get involved with them before returning. He was going to block their calls, but decided to go because they said they would no longer bother him if he listened to them this one time.

He arrived. He parked his car in the lot and entered the building. Personnel waiting in advance escorted Cha Jun Sung. It feels like he has become a VIP member.

Where could they be going? Are they going to Chun Myung Ik? The path was new because he had never seen the inside. If he followed them, they would reach the destination.

“This is it.”

“Thank you.”

The personnel brought Cha Jun Sung in front of a luxurious door. It looks too comfortable to be used as an office.

Knock knock!

“Bring him in.”

The personnel opened the door for him. The hospitality is excessive. What are they aiming at?

Cha Jun Sung walked awkwardly into the room. The spaciousness and interior is comparable to the luxury hotels he stayed at when he went on the occasional trip abroad.

“Welcome. I was waiting.”

“Oh?”

Cha Jun Sung pointed to the man and looked surprised.

‘He recognizes me.’

He needs to give the other a good impression. Lim Si Hyun’s celebrity life is clean.

There are no scandals or corruption because it had all been managed carefully.

“Who are you again?”

“Um!”

Lim Si Hyun was taken aback. Cha Jun Sung’s behavior is that of someone who was trying to remember but could not. He was weak in his knowledge on the media because he had been living buried in the game.

“I’m Lim Si Hyun.”

“The actor Lim Si Hyun? Master of 7 Stars? Are you the person who was looking for me?”

The best guild in Korea, 7 Stars. There is no link for it to look for him through Hocheon. Did word of his actions in the mission get out? Aha! This is a contact.

He could guess what is happening. In the virtual version, he had been contacted constantly to join guilds. It is just a surprise that the proposal is from 7 Stars and not Hocheon.

“I am Ghost Gun.”

Cha Jun Sung froze. He had not heard incorrectly. Lim Si Hyun is Ghost Gun? Is this not a guild proposal? He will need to hear him out.

Chapter 54

“I think we met for the first time while catching Medusa in South America?”

Level 8 Medusa.

It is the top mutant in the snake line. Its appearance in the myth and ability to turn living creatures into stone are all different, but its poison is incredible.

Hundreds of people could die because of one drop of Medusa’s blood. It has a lot of meaning. It means that Lim Si Hyun is guessing that he is Overload.

“You really are.”

“Lies are caught quickly.”

“How did you find me?”

The only Lifer he still spoke with is that woman and he had not given her his contact information. It is said that a tail is stepped on if it is long. Is that the situation he is finding himself in?

Lim Si Hyun motioned Cha Jun Sung to a seat. He sat without suspicion. It felt like the conversation would get long. There must be no misunderstanding.

Lim Si Hyun had looked for Cha Jun Sung because he wants to befriend him.

“Do you know that the world is moving?”

“I am expecting it, but I don’t know much about it because I am ignoring the situation.”

“I met Iron King a few days ago.”

“Iron King?”

He is the representative Lifer of Korea. Cha Jun Sung knew that name as well.

Lim Si Hyun took out the main point and spoke. Han Chang Jin had trusted him and revealed a top secret. He cannot ignore a gesture shown by another.

Cha Jun Sung listened to Lim Si Hyun and understood how he had been found. Lim Si Hyun had guessed and hoped for the best, and he had been caught in that.

“Iron King for me?”

“Yes. He thought about hacking your blog, but said he did not do it because he thought it would be counterproductive. What do you think about meeting him? He’s a good man.”

His impression of Han Chang Jin increased. He considers the other person’s stance.

It is not difficult to meet up if it is a good person. There is nothing to lose in forming allies with other Lifers as they had done in the virtual version.

“I have his contact information but if you feel strange about calling him first, shall I set up a meeting?”

Cha Jun Sung’s first impression of Lim Si Hyun is aggressive. He clearly shows if he likes something or not. He does not seem to be someone who would do him wrong.

“I am busy at the moment, but I can meet him later.”

“Then can I tell this to Mr. Han Chang Jin? He’ll be happy if he hears about this. He said that he sent you a message everyday, but you never responded.”

Message?

He must be referring to the mail that comes through the blog, though 99% of it is spam. He put it all in the trash everyday, but had not thought that there would be a message from Han Chang Jin in there.

It is still in the trash and has not been erased. He will need to go home and take a look at it.

“I didn’t read them because they were a bother.”

“You don’t seem to be the type to recklessly ignore; you would say you don’t like it

outright.”

“You as well?”

“Yes. There are hundreds of instances where you need to swallow your words in the celebrity world, but there are times when you need to be straightforward so you don’t suffer damages.”

“We have similar personalities.”

“What do you think of the occasional mission together just for fun? I won’t bother you about it if you don’t want to do it.”

They do not need to go around together now but when confronted with the level D advance mission, they will become a great source of aid to each other.

Pushing through with numbers is the only way to take on a level 4 with D class gear. Experts are needed, not people who die with one blow.

If rabbits get involved to catch a tiger, they will have no effect no matter how many of them there are. However, if dozens of wolves run in, it is possible for them to rip it apart.

Ring!

“Apologies.”

Lim Si Hyun excused himself from Cha Jun Sung and picked up his call. They had disobeyed his order not to bother him for a few hours. It must be urgent.

[Hello.] [Master, you have a visitor from America. I’ll put them on the phone.]

There was a short silence while the phone was passed from person to person.

[Hi, Ghost!] [Who are you?]

Lim Si Hyun spoke in English. He is fluent as someone of a rich family should be. Only a few people beyond his family and the guild know that he is Ghost Gun.

[Me? I’m Boom Busker. Hold on, I want to talk to him!] [Sorry. We went to 7 Stars

headquarters but you were missing, so we called. My name is Irina Headley, I'm Ice Queen.]

He could not understand the situation. It felt like work he had pushed back was suddenly exploding. Ice Queen and Boom Busker – why are they in Korea?

[Tell me why you're here.] [We need to tell you in person. When will you have time?]
[I'll go now. I'll tell the guild members to arrange a place for you to rest.]

His head hurts. Just as Han Chang Jin came looking for him, it seems the U.S. is trying to subsume famous Lifers. They had sent Ice Queen. He must be right.

"Ice Queen and Boom Busker from America came looking for 7 Stars."

"Those are nostalgic titles."

Various categories of rankers. When all 36 people were active at the same time, it was an age of prestige for each.

"Seeing as how they came looking for me, there is a great chance they'll go to you as well."

"Do you think they'll know who I am and where I live?"

"It'll be hacking."

"They must be crazy."

"I'll arrange for a meeting with Mr. Han Chang Jin soon. I hope you won't turn it down."

Lim Si Hyun went back to 7 Stars. Cha Jun Sung could feel that his life would become twisted with this. He cannot hope for it to be quiet forever.

Something is bound to jump out at him with an awl in its pocket.

Chapter 55

Early in the morning, a call came from Park Jin Hyuk. He was not sleeping because he called at the right time. There was regret in his voice.

-[Have you opened the lucky box?]

-[You opened yours?]

Cha Jun Sung has not even gone to the briefing room yet. He has not seen the lucky box yet, much less opened it. He had left it alone since it will not run away.

-[There's nothing. I should have sold it and bought a gaming device. You know what came out?]

-[What is it?]

-[Ramen! Ramen came out!]

Ha ha!

Cha Jun Sung held his stomach. \$100,000 was disguised as 1 point. Park Jin Hyuk voiced his anger.

-[I can't even sell it and it's weird to open it.]

-[Enjoy it.]

There is nothing as naive as dreaming for riches through gamble. Whatever the reward is, it is best without disappointment. There is more disappointment with higher expectations.

-[Anyway, you're saying you didn't open yours?]

-[Yeah.]

-[Hit jackpot on my behalf too. But when do we do our next mission?]

-[How many points are left for Head Hunter?]

-[A lot.]

-[Focus on solo missions. It's hard to match our times together every time anyway.]

Head Hunter is a private item sniper rifle that explodes the target.

It is a weapon specialized in sniping and genocide. Its use becomes different by purpose. If even a level 3 is hit legitimately, it could be killed with one shot.

An explosive bomb is pretty expensive, but its power is comparable to that of a grenade. It is worth the investment and they can handle that amount of points without problem.

Unless it is a difficult mission, the points they earn from solo missions are useful.

-[Alright. I think I just need 10 days. I'll get the Head Hunter and call you.]

-[Okay.]

They ended the radio. It would take around that much time for Cha Jun Sung as well. If he completes 7 or 8 1500 point missions, the Wolf Blade is his.

He is thinking of applying for a piecewise force to see how they perform. A piecewise force is when several parties overlap in one force to go into a mission together.

It is as though the 100 people who enter the mission area are all strangers. It is perfect to go into with Park Jin Hyuk. The disadvantage is that they cannot guarantee safety.

Since there was no focus on matching the members, there was no proportion for the level of skill and gear.

It is a group perfect for mediocre players to linger in. There is a famous rumor that only 2 survivors emerged from a 100-person piecewise force.

Was it mission completion? Of course they had quit. There is a reason why Lifers want to go into forces in large guilds. There is a huge difference in the chance of survival.

Currently, piecewise forces are not very active due to the dangerous aspect. There are

places that have fairly strict recruitment, but they are all the same.

“Lucky box, should I open mine too?”

Park Jin Hyuk lifted his vision goggles and he looked full of interest. They will receive energy from the morning sun, open the box, and contribute it to purchasing the Wolf Blade.



It is a rectangular box the size of a person’s head. A gold pattern is splendidly mixed on a white background. It looks to be expensive just by its appearance.

-[The lucky box is disposable and though it is small, the inside follows a principle similar to the space compression bag. Inside, there is an item.]

“That means if you’re lucky enough, you could even get a tank worths tens of thousands of points?”

-[You must be very lucky.]

“I can sense emotion in your words.”

Odin did not respond. He becomes silent if something is not in his favor. He is called artificial intelligence, but he is sly like a fox.

“You’re saying I just need to push this button.”

When he pressed a slightly raised, half round button, all sides of the box disappeared. There is no tremendous effect. As it opened, the item came out.

“Is it a stick?”

It is a black bar. Poking at it, it is hard. He guessed it is made of iron or an alloy. It is heavy compared to its length and thickness.

-[That is quite a feat. You have received a black iron alloy. It seems you are not a man of misfortune.]

“Just explain it to me.”

-[It is a material item sold in the level B store. Its strength and resiliency is a few times that of steel, so it raises the quality of the gear it is mixed into.]

“Is it expensive?”

-[2 million for 10 tied together. To calculate for 1, it would be 200,000 points.]

“Wow!”

Cha Jun Sung showed his happiness on hitting jackpot. He would need to live in a mission for a month to get 2 million points. He had gotten that much at once by chance.

“Wait.”

Cha Jun Sung calmed down and thought of the stick’s usage.

Where should he use it? He could not sell it to the store or to a Lifer. He would not even brandish it as a weapon instead of his sword.

-[You can only synthesize or produce items with the black iron alloy.]

“Make gear with this?”

-[Since the material is B class, you might succeed in creating an item that you can use in level C. Shall I show you a list of items it is possible to synthesize or produce?]

“Show me.”

A hologram that is clearer and larger than the PDA appeared in front of Cha Jun Sung. There were over hundreds of items on the list, but he only took care of the useless ones.

[I would not recommend that you create armor with the amount that you own. I will recommend strengthening your arms.]

It is 1 stick. He would have been able to create metal armor if he had 4 more.

Iron armor covers the entire body and can be used until the battle shoot. In the chance that he is hit, it can even block a 7.62mm.

“Is it just the sword?”

-[If you use the black iron alloy as a foundation and create a sword, you will be able to create a weapon better than the Wolf Blade.]

There are 2 ways to purchase the Wolf Blade. Either buy the completed product, or create it with materials. There is a 20% discount on the latter.

Cha Jun Sung is wary of creating goods. If something goes wrong while producing it, it will not live up to the completed product or it malfunctions. That is a waste of points.

“Are you going to make it well for me?”

-[You cannot interfere in the production of items. You will have to put trust in your luck.]

“You’re just supposed to say you’ll make it well. It’s not like you’re selling something for the first time.”

Cha Jun Sung contemplated for a short time and purchased the materials that go into production by item. He just hoped that there would not be any malfunctions even if its performance fell short.

Various assembly pieces like the vibration engine and energy core scraped up the 240,000 points that Cha Jun Sung had worked like an ant for a few months to gather.

Clunk!

He took his materials and went into a production room in the briefing room. It looks like a small factory. The machine worktable was set to Wolf Blade.

Wiing!

The machine changes. It is adjusting the deployment status to meet the production of the weapon. There are as many shapes to the machine as there are types of weapons.

-[Please place the suitable material in the position the hologram indicates, and choose the functions that you want. It will take 3 days until completion.]

Beep beep!

Even when he was active as Overload in the virtual version, he had preferred the sword. It is because regardless of the appearance, weight adjustment is possible as long as he has the materials.

However, weight exists in reality. A sword needs to have a heavy feeling to it.

If he makes it as it appears in the virtual, it would feel as light as cotton with his body modification and increased muscular strength.

“I’ll do this one.”

The shape he chose is a straight line like a sword. The thickest part of the blade is 1cm, the point is 10cm long, and the length of the entire blade is 1.5m. The weight is 30kg.

Woong!

He decided to mix titanium with the remaining parts to make a dagger. After starting the production, the black iron alloy disappeared.

He finally had his first private weapon. The weapons he had possessed until now are just toys.

The machine does the direct production, but he had to pay close attention to the small details to match his battle style. He will have a stronger attachment to this weapon than anything else.

“I’ll be back in 3 days.”

He had butterflies in his stomach thinking about the weapon that would be born. He will love it dearly.

Chapter 56

When Cha Jun Sung returned home, he went through the messages on his blog. Before meeting Lim Si Hyun, he had dragged them into the trash all together.

He had read a few at first, but hundreds of spam mail come in everyday. As they piled and piled, they reached over 10,000 like it is a joke.

Spam dealers became better by the day, so they got through all of the filters. At some point, he just had a resigned state of mind where he did not pay attention to them.

“Ah... So this is how he sent it.”

There are 12 messages that Han Chang Jin sent. It took a few days to find all of them.

E-mail has a search function. It looks for particular words that are searched. Regretfully, there is no message. He needs to look through each of them individually.

Searching through a sea of spam is hard work. He took his time with it since Lim Si Hyun said that he would handle arranging a meeting for what they discussed a few days ago.

He does not have to find the messages, but there is the effort that Han Chang Jin had put in to sending them. He should read them at least.

-[Overload, I have something I must tell you on behalf of the government. Please contact me when you see this message. We need you.]

They were similar to this message. His writing is stiff, fitting for a soldier. He still did not feel rejection toward it. His image is good.

“Hm?”

As he was about to close the window after finishing his work, a title caught Cha Jun Sung's eye. It is in Japanese.

It does not look like spam. Even if he cannot read it because it is in a different language,

he could tell if it is spam or not just by looking it over. He put the PDA to his computer and turned on the translator.

Wiing!

-[The scan has begun. Decoding complete. Please check the content.]

The translation is written on the PDA. Cha Jun Sung read it without any thought.

-[Pails, are you doing well? This is Koharu. The world is changing so much that I did not have time to get in touch.]

Cha Jun Sung sat up straight in his chair and focused on the translated text on his PDA. How could this be! That woman contacted him!

Overload is a title that people had given him, but Pails is Cha Jun Sung's character name. This woman is the only person who calls him that so amicably.

-[Pails, you entered level D as well, haven't you? There is less need for parties in level E, but I really felt that solo missions are impossible from now on.]

-[It is full of people I can't trust. Ambition has shaken people's humanity. I am going through a lot because I am a woman.]

Because she is a woman? There are an increasing number of cases where women are included in parties as long as they are powerful. Their purpose is to serve as a soother

There is nothing that can be done about this because it is done by agreement. Rape and murder are also frequent. The government cannot take responsibility for what happens inside the missions.

Evidence is needed to prove a crime. Collecting data in a mission? It does not make sense. A crime cannot be established on testimony alone.

-[Thankfully, nothing very bad has happened to me. Honestly Pails, I can't even trust you 100%. I do trust you enough to put my expectations on you.]

Whew!

He sighed in relief because his friend is safe. It is upsetting that she does not think of

him as completely trustworthy, but he could understand. The world is going insane.

-[I am looking for a fixed party. The members are my little sister and myself. A tyrant proposed a party, but we rejected. We can't trust him.]

The tyrant is Murayama Tanaka. He and Koharu are the only 2 Japanese rankers. He is a hot-blooded maverick who does whatever he wants.

He has a bad relationship with Cha Jun Sung and had a bad reputation in the virtual version. If Campbell garnered an evil reputation as PK, Tanaka is a wrongdoer.

-[I'm sure it hasn't changed?]

Mizuki Koharu. It would become a great strength to the party if Cha Jun Sung as an assassination tracker and Koharu as an expert in 쌍단도술 come together.

"Of course not."

He gives trust to the person who trusts him. That is Cha Jun Sung. That was it for the content in the message. Looking at the incoming date, it is 6 days ago.

Cha Jun Sung input a response in his PDA and translated it into Japanese.

It is a courtesy to make it easy to read. He copied it into an e-mail and sent it. The PDA works freely with all computer networks.

He asked Odin once. What would happen if scientists took the items helpers give Lifers and take them apart to reinvent them? To this, Odin said,

-[If a primitive man were given a cellphone, would he be able to understand the principle of it?]

Cha Jun Sung was irked but he took it that he was saying it is of such a higher science that he it could not be understood with current knowledge.

"Good!"

He would stay quiet until the weapon came out. Once Park Jin Hyuk gets his Head Hunter and his Wolf Blade comes out a few days later, they would go in right away.



3 days went by so slowly and Cha Jun Sung had his watch on him everyday. He was full of anticipation and waiting.

Seureung!

It is beautiful. He can feel the black metal hidden in the blade.

Excluding the make-up, it is similar to a common sword but beyond being satisfied, Cha Jun Sung fell in love at first sight.

It is heavy. He had to use his muscles to lift 30kg with one hand. If he brandishes this with power, the weight will be increased.

-[The vibration function can be adjusted with the switch on/off. In the on state, access is prohibited in all aspects other than the hilt.]

Weapons are inanimate. They do not discriminate between foes. If it goes at someone in a vibrating state, it either breaks or cuts.

-[The production method followed the Wolf Blade, but a new weapon was born with the black iron alloy as its basic foundation.]

-[The D class energy core and vibration engine are flaws, but it is a great incorporation.]

The foundation is B class but the components are D class. It is because the materials are mixed. The inside of vibrating weapons are full of complex machinery.

If the core and engine were C class, he would use it until level B missions.

-[I will engrave your name on it as a courtesy. Is there something you had in mind?]

Name? He had never thought of it before. Excluding the use of the black iron alloy, the manufacturing process followed exactly that of the Wolf Blade. He was going to call it that as well.

“Contemplating the name for a long time will only make my head hurt. What do you think of Wolf Kill?”

-[Killing wolves?]

“According to your explanation, it’s somewhere between level D or C? What if it’s mocking but better than a wolf? It’s killing the wolf if it’s overwhelmed.”

-[Wolf Kill, confirmed. I will embed it right away. It will only take 1 minute.]

Zing!

A high-density laser embeds the name Wolf Kill in English. It did not bother him because it was subtle.

“You’re like a double personality artificial intelligence.”

-[What does that mean?]

“You’re serious when you’re serious, but when you joke, you get to the point where I want to beat you up.”

-[With a great A.I. like me, you must differentiate between personal and professional feelings.]

Cha Jun Sung put the Wolf Kill on his hip. It did not drag on the floor because he is tall. A short Lifer would need to put it on his back.

“Well your shit is thick (Korean saying to say someone is arrogant).”

-[I do not go to the bathroom as an A.I. Where are you going?]

Odin was serious and had a conservative tone at first, but he got more annoying as they spent more time together. But Odin is still completely on his side, his helper.

“Just as I did after the body modification, I’m going into a mission to test the new weapon.”

-[Wolf Kill’s power is similar to existing products, but it does not compare to the strength and elasticity of others and could blow a rock to pieces.]

“Thanks.”

-[It's nothing.]

Woong.

Cha Jun Sung entered a mission. It is a 3000 point solo mission. It was a matter of life or death before, but it is now a suitable test site.

Chapter 57

“Fresh air!”

He stroked the Wolf Kill. All he had done was to purchase a weapon, but he felt reassured.

If he gets an item like the battle shoot later, would it feel like he has the whole world? It could, but his heart would not flutter as much as it did the first time.

Cha Jun Sung whistled and entered an area covered in housing.

This is a small village with a population of 20,000. The mission goal is annihilation. He just has to sweep them. His Wolf Kill and red fire hung from either side of his hip.

A gun is absolutely necessary unless it is a mission far below standards. Lifers who are part of a melee like Cha Jun Sung have restrictions to how much of their ability is shown.

Even with Park Jin Hyuk, he can do his worth as a sniper as long as he has a rifle.

However, an attack group could go wrong if a move is even slightly off. Gear makes the difference to go up against mutants. That is why they hold guns.

There is no way to get rid of these tiring restrictions other than to go through the 4th stage of body modifications and use the battle shoot. Until then, he must always be careful.

Keureuk!

“Stop waiting around and come out. I came to go to war.”

A mass of mutants holding crude weapons walked out from a shaded area. There were only a few level 2 mutants and the rest are level 1.

“Walkers.”

The transition of the A virus is decided in the first infected tribe. Just as an infected human cannot become an infected plant, the reverse is also impossible.

Walkers, cannibals, Crawlions and Spectres all started as humans.

Hatcheries are very rare, but it is known as having come from a cell like an amoeba in the virtual version. It is not a human victory, but a cell victory.

Walkers come gathering in. Their physical ability is somewhere in middle to top of level 1.

They use tools to support their lack of physical ability, but there are more humanoid mutants that use weapons than those that do not.

“After playing with Spectres, you guys are frustrating.”

Pang!

Cha Jun Sung approached the Walkers within moments. He had been about 60m away, but he moved that distance within 5 seconds.

If the weight of the gear on his body is all combined, it is that of a person. If it had been his bare body, it would not have even taken 4 seconds. That speed is running 100m in 6 seconds.

Seureung!

Cha Jun Sung leapt with a running force and slashed down his Wolf Kill. A Walker raised a metal pipe and covered its head. It is a reflex action.

As the metal pipe cut, the Walker was broken into pieces. There was leftover power and he stabbed down to the ground. He had not even turned on the vibration function. It is a tremendous cutting force.

Cha Jun Sung rotated his body and swept the Wolf Kill 360 degrees. Walkers coming at him from all directions were cut up and squirmed in pain.

“on.”

The Wolf Kill’s blade is electric. A weak vibration rang through his hand. In that state,

he stabbed a Walker and brought it up. Nothing was blocked.

“Huh?”

Cutting tofu with a knife? Slashing through water? Bones and muscle did not get caught. It was over if the blade touched it ever so slightly. The offensive power increased abnormally.

A Walker hit the back of Cha Jun Sung’s head with a stick. He was okay because he was protected by a helmet. Even without the helmet, he would not have been wounded.

His current skeletal strength is almost that of steel. His muscle is also as firm as rubber. He is not in a state where he can be brought down so easily with a few hits.

Cha Jun Sung brandished the Wolf Kill diagonally at the Walker that hit him. It hit the wall behind it and left a mark.

Once he hit the whole wall, the mounting antagonism was felt.

The Walkers were surprised and stepped away from Cha Jun Sung. Dozens of them died. He is too strong. He is fine even if he is hit, and he did not even get tired.

“I guess they’ll die even if I throw them slightly.”

Cha Jun Sung took the pin off of the grenade. When one fights with many, the advantage is that he only needs to watch himself. Other than that, everything is a disadvantage.

The grenade went off in the middle of the Walkers. Their flesh scatters. Since they are all gathered together, he did not need to put in much strength to get rid of them all at once.

Ha ha!

Cha Jun Sung’s eye became red. He had gone slightly crazy. Lifers who went through body modification always work to keep their sanity under control.

It is an unofficial aftereffect, so it becomes nothing if it is not focused on. It is not difficult since they only need to pay a little attention to it.

The problem is the building stress. They need to release it occasionally. That is why Cha Jun Sung does as he wants when he goes into a solo mission.

If he leaves his body to the madness, the offensiveness to killing mutants disappears.

He is becoming a killing machine. In a militant aspect, it is more effective to go crazy than to try to maintain sanity. The only this is that it is only useful when alone.

They need to go crazy while seeing the state of the party or force. Whatever they can see in front of their eyes is an obstacle. In this regard, there are bad cases with Lifers.

He has not completely lost himself to the madness. There is still some sanity left.

Usually, it takes 5 days to complete a 3000 point mission. At this rate, it could be shortened to 3 days. It is record-breaking. He gives this honor to the Wolf Kill.

Chapter 58

“I got ramen, but you got something like this! It’s not fair!”

Park Jin Hyuk looked all over the Wolf Kill and complained. He had told Cha Jun Sung to get his worth as well, but he is now speaking differently.

“It’s not like the Wolf Kill came out. I used 250,000 points to produce it.”

“Since the black iron alloy gave birth to this guy, it’s your fortune.”

Hearing it, it is so. Without the black iron alloy, the Wolf Kill would not have existed.

“How many points is this worth?”

“I didn’t ask how much it is. Odin, how much is it if you calculate it by points?”

-[Since the materials are not constant, it is not sold as a completed product. If you need to calculate, 450,000 points is appropriate.]

450,000. Just as Odin expected, it is a weapon that could be used until level C missions. For now, he only needs to focus on upgrading basic gear.

Park Jin Hyuk scratched the side of the building with the Wolf Kill. A line forms.

Since he switched the on function, it dug in deeply. It would not be a problem to cut not only level 3 mutants, but also level 4 if they are unprotected.

“What do you think?”

Seuk.

Park Jin Hyuk drew a line across his neck with his hand. It is a certain gesture.

The way he looked at it, getting caught on the Wolf Kill means death. The more minor mutants will be done with just a slight cut. It is the legendary excalibur sword.

Cha Jun Sung did a time attack of 3 days in the experimental mission for the Wolf Kill. After killing and killing, the place had turned bleak.

“The Head Hunter looks stupid.”

“Let me see it for a second.”

Park Jin Hyuk handed him the Head Hunter. It is twice as heavy as the Wolf Kill.

It is 2m long and weighs 60kg. It looks like a grenade launcher with a muzzler. It is clunky.

“It’s heavy, so I can’t snipe with it while on the move.”

“Hm.”

Sniping on the go needs a clean shot. Forget the weight, the rebound is severe. The average person cannot lift it and it could break a shoulder when shot.

“I’m going to try shooting it.”

“Sure.”

This is the first mission they are going in together in 10 days, but they are only playing with their weapons.

A shot fires from the Head Hunter. Even a target 2km away is captured in the scope, and has the power to kill through a steel sheet.

“It hurts. Someone wouldn’t even be able to shoot it if you gave it to them.”

He only fired one shot and his shoulder is stiff. Rest is needed every time a shot is fired.

Cha Jun Sung aimed at a nearby building. He wants to see the strength of the explosive bomb. The purpose of purchasing the Head Hunter is for the explosive bomb, capable of mass destruction.

Something resembling a k4 grenade flew out and reduced the building’s outer wall to ashes. The rebound was worse than that of the bullet, but it is comparable to a grenade as the description had said.

“You’ll have to be careful when you shoot it. With the wrong move, you could kill your allies.”

“Input complete!”

There is always danger in using weapons. It would not be a weapon if it is safe. A weapon is a weapon. They must keep that in mind. With this, they ended their personal maintenance.

“When do we meet the new candidates for a party?”

“Soon.”

There is no contact from Koharu yet. Cha Jun Sung worries that something may have happened.

He only received her message 6 days after she had sent it. He had seen it too late. Since he sent his response 10 days ago, it has been 16 days.

“Is her sibling also a woman?”

“Yeah.”

Hee hee!

Park Jin Hyuk smiled widely. He had not shown it, but it was a drag to always be going around with a man. They will be revitalized if there is a flower in their team.

Woo woo!

A mutant heard the explosion and is approaching them. They prepared for battle.

“It’s coming.”

“I want to hurry up and meet the new party members.”

Cha Jun Sung admitted it. He fully trusted Park Jin Hyuk. He is pickier than anyone else. If he does not like them, they cannot enter their party.

‘I am waiting.’

Mizuki Koharu, what are you doing that you are not responding?



A mistake? Letting their guard down? They had been unlucky. They had gone into the wrong path during the mission. The result was that they had invaded the habitat of level 3 mutants, which had nothing to do with their mission.

It only took moments for the reward points to increase from 5000 to 8000.

If it had been a formal force operated by a large guild, they would have been able to retaliate in some way. However, the limitations to a piecewise force are clear.

Tatat!

Mizuki Koharu took her sister, Kyoko, by the hand and ran away.

13 Lifers are following behind her. They cannot quit the mission because they are being tracked. They need to get away from the mutants or kill them.

It is a mutant that is impossible to kill with the current members' skills and equipment. Even the mutants in the original mission were scared of these.

"Ko, Koharu!"

"Run! We're dead if we stop!"

Koharu held tightly to Kyoko's hand. Even with the 2nd stage of body modifications, the female body is weak. They do not receive the effects that healthy men get.

The escape lasted for 1 week. They cannot help but tire out in this environment.

After wandering around the same place, they retreated to the area where they were first summoned. It is a prison where hundreds are held. As the outside is blocked, they have an advantage in defense.

They hunted the Lifers one at a time. Very slowly. Even though it is a piecewise party, 100 people was reduced to 15.

They had been massacred without even being able to go through with the mission that

they needed to do in the first place. The more surprising part was that they had not fallen to adults, but 2 babies.

Koharu stayed alive until now because of her skill and because 85 people died before her. The order of killings was decided randomly.

“It’s the prison!”

At that cry, the Lifers brought up the remainder of their strength to speed up.

They can see a building on top of a secluded mountain. The exact destination is a special facility that imprisons criminals. Other than the entrance, everything is closed in.

“Ah! We survived! Let’s all take a break and figure out how to kill them!”

The Lifers had been devastated while taking advantage of the features.

They were in a rush to run away, so they did not have the chance to think about it. Since they have some of their basic necessities, they need to plot how they will get rid of the crazy monsters.

A few seconds passed since they yelled that they are alive. A crescent-shaped blade the length of half of a human penetrated and came out through the waist.

Ack!

The Lifers’ faces went blue at the painful groan.

They had been mistaken in thinking that they had gotten away. They were moving similarly. They had been playing into the mutants’ hands in the first place.

A mutant 2m tall slices up the Lifer. It is big, but it does not look to be an adult. The way it uses the knife on its arm is also awkward.

Behind the baby, 3 mutants dropped down from the trees. 2 of them are complete adults and 1 is about two heads shorter because it is still developing.

The 2 adults looked at the baby with pleased expressions. It is inexperienced, but its hunting skills are advancing. It just needs to work a little bit harder.

It would have been nothing for the adults to hunt and slaughter the Lifers, but they had left them as practice for their babies. They only wanted to get involved when it is dangerous.

Koharu went into the prison and turned her head back. She saw a Lifer who had been ripped into a rag and the mutants standing still and looking at them.

“Slayer...”

The strongest level 3. Slayers, which are gifted in hunting, are the culprits that had killed 86 of the Lifers. The other 14 lives would be the same.

The male Slayer said something to the larger child. At that, it chased the Lifers with the small child. The adults watched without moving.

Chapter 59

-[The tracking has faded. For 5 minutes, 3 people can quit.]

With the helper's notice Koharu, Kyoko, and the other Lifers' eyes widened. There are 14 members, but only 3 people can quit the mission?

One Lifer who was looking around at the others requested to quit the mission.

It would not take more than 5 seconds to return, but a Lifer next to him pushed him.

As their locations were twisted, the return was canceled. They are both requesting return. Time to discuss? There is none. At this rate, all 3 opportunities will disappear.

"Kyoko! Listen to me! I'll buy you time. Quit in that time!"

"I don't want to!"

Koharu took her twin daggers and blocked Kyoko from the front. A few Lifers drove their attention to her. If they want to live, they need to block her return.

"I'll stay. Just give one spot to my sister. Don't come."

The Lifers witnessed Koharu's skills as they were running away to the prison.

She had never fought an adult, but she is strong enough to battle a child one-on-one. If she goes at it blindly, she could die before the return happens.

With a mutual agreement, they handed one spot over. It is better to go after 2 certain spots instead of 1 uncertain spot. Then they fought again.

"Why aren't you going back!"

"I'm going with you!"

She cannot go back no matter what. One of the two need to go back, but Kyoko cannot drag out time in battle as a medic. She needs to be the one to stay.

She completely forgot about the special facilities, which had been her goal. While the Lifers were fighting each other to go back, the baby Slayers had caught up to them.

The Slayers ran around and hung upside down from the ceiling. The Lifers did not get themselves together until then and started fighting amongst themselves.

“Hurry!”

Kyoko cried as she requested to quit. Neither the Lifers nor the Slayers stopped her. To do that, they would need to get through Koharu first.

Woong!

Kyoko gradually began to fade. It was right before her return.

“Live strong.”

The tears that Koharu had been holding back, spilled down her face. There was no transition. She was already sad that she was dying, but also sad to be separating from her sister.

‘I love you.’

‘Me too.’

Kyoko returned to reality. She wanted to at least hold Koharu’s hand for the last time, but the return becomes canceled if she moves. She could only express her feelings with her eyes.

-[The time to quit the mission is over. It is no longer allowed.]

“No!”

“2 more people could have lived but couldn’t because of you guys!”

The Lifers blamed each other. It is not an issue to argue over blame. There was not one person who had not been selfish with the requests to quit.

Koharu had also turned a blind eye to what they were doing for Kyoko’s return.

‘It’s dangerous here.’

The Slayers watched the spectacle below them and did not attack. The adults did not act either.

Koharu was watching the situation and went into the special facility. Even if she dies, she would die while doing what she could. She would not just stay still.



The atmosphere in the special facility is like that of a funeral home. She did come in, but could not exit. The prison had become the Slayers’ new habitat.

Including Koharu, there are 13 Lifers. Even if they put together a plan, there was not enough power to take on 4 Slayers.

“Let’s forget the scene from before. We showed shameful behavior because of survival.”

Hm hm!

The Lifers who had just tried to return even if it meant killing others, were busy apologizing. Is this sincere? If they are given another chance, they would do the same.

Mutants also have the duplicity that humans have. There is nothing to gain from showing their true selves in an enclosed state, so they are just hiding their inner feelings.

“I’m sorry, but I’ll speak for everyone. We need to gather all of our goods together. If they wait it out, another force might enter.”

The Lifers looked at the man negatively. 8 people have space compression bags. 5 have their packs but it seems he lost his as he was running away.

Gathering their necessities together meant giving to the people who do not have. Why do they have to share? If they keep everything to themselves, they can stay alive longer.

“I don’t want to.”

“Excuse me?”

A short Lifer revealed his rejection. It does not make sense. If even 30 days worth is shared, it becomes 15 days. Is he crazy to do this?

“Seeing as how you have a pack as well, shouldn’t you agree?”

“That’s right.”

“How did you think of coming into a level D mission without a space compression bag? Take responsibility for it if you came in without knowing your state.”

He criticized the Lifers who went into a top mission when they do not have the skills to do so.

The owners of space compression bags discussed and put distance between themselves and the Lifers without bags. If they try to come take the bags, they would put their strength together to fight back.

“We fall short of food and supplies to use in battle.”

“So?”

“People need to help each other more in times are difficulty.”

“How are you saying that we must help each other when you tried to prevent others from returning?”

The people who wanted to share and those who did not continued to argue. Koharu did not get involved, but she felt negative.

If they wait it out, would they be able to live?

Would she be able to see Kyoko again?

If they share their necessities, they need to also share that hope. If they eat sparingly, they can last 2 months. The important thing are the supplies for battle.

As they had basically had a shootout while running away until now, they could not guess how much they have left before opening it. It could all be gone.

Keureung!

“Ack!”

“Slayer!”

While the Lifers had been arguing for a while, a Slayers eye was looking around through the bulletproof window of the facility.

The facility’s purpose is to imprison criminals. Even though the door is sturdy, the entrance would be opened if the Slayer uses its knife or kicks it down.

The Slayer looked over the Lifers and hid itself. Since they can be hunted and killed at anytime, there is no reason to rush.

Koharu watched a few Lifers and hardened her expression. The fact that their sanities have been compromised because of fear are displayed. It is a bad sign.

‘They’re in a bad state mentally.’

It is a Lifer who does not have a space compression bag. He is a ticking time bomb. There is no way of knowing what could happen in an extreme situation.

They are facing 2 problems. Getting past the problem regarding the Slayers, they need to figure out the 5 Lifers who would not be able to last long without supplies.

What if they pull out their guns? They’ll die from internal fighting before the Slayers could even get to them. Koharu was also against sharing supplies, but she was running out of options.

‘Be straightforward.’

Koharu thought about it calmly. It is difficult to claim supplies in this closed off situation even if she purchased them with her own points.

If they want to stretch their days of survival, they need to work in harmony.

“Let’s split it in half.”

“What?”

“Who are you to say that!”

“Should we die amongst ourselves while fighting over supplies? Look at those 2 people. They are having trouble accepting this situation with their weak mentality.”

The people with space compression bags looked at the Lifers that Koharu pointed out. Just by looking at them, they could tell that the two are in a bad state. It is the perfect state to create a ruckus.

“This place is lawless. There’s no use in distinguishing between what’s yours and mine.”

The Lifers wavered. The people with bags clenched their teeth and faced reality, while the people without felt shame at these words meant to reduce their worth.

“Fuck! These assholes! Don’t you guys have any shame? You should have just kept playing in level E. Why did you crawl into level D? If you don’t have the skills, build them!”

He spits out a lot of offensive rhetoric. His chest feels like it is on fire.

No one stopped him and no one refuted him either. He did not say anything wrong. They were not prepared and were only full of will. Lifers who are at no fault have to work harder.

“Save the resentment for when you die. If you live, make sure you repay the favor.”

Knock knock!

The Lifers took their supplies out bitterly.

Koharu helped. Whatever it is, the mediator needs to go as well. Even if you cannot take the high road, you should not shortcut yourself. The 5 people without bags broke this completely.

They are nuisances, but they need to all be fit to fight the Slayer.

Chapter 60

Meanwhile, Kyoko returned and wept with her hands to her face.

The guilt of leaving Koharu in that hell broke her heart. But she did not just cry without doing anything. She thought about how to rescue her.

“What do I do? Re-entry by myself is impossible. It became an 8000 point mission. It’ll become deleted from Lifers’ mission lists.”

While choosing a mission, there is an extensive list that is dizzying. Beyond a certain number of points, they are private.

To do 8000 points when people are iffy about going into 6000 point missions.

She is running out of options. The mission names show what types of mutants might be appearing. If she tries to recruit a force, no one would apply and people would say that she is crazy.

She needs a full force with the complete 100 people, but she does not have the ability to find all of those people.

“Ask him for a favor? No! Koharu told me never to get involved with him.”

Of the current large guilds in Japan, there are only a few that would make an attempt at an 8000 point mission. Of those, the best is Anger.

Anger’s master is among the 36 rankers and called Tyrant – Murayama Tanakada. He is a roughneck who acts without plans, but his abilities are real.

His personal link to Koharu is that they went to middle and high school together. He showed bad behavior when he was young, and that became worse as he grew older.

He likes Koharu. Pure intentions? It is obsession and possessiveness.

It is the exclusiveness that differentiates from the average person. Koharu is a famous model in Japan. Men love her for her attractive body and face.

Tanaka might grant it if she asks him to rescue Koharu. The only thing is that Koharu or Kyoko would have to pay the corresponding exchange.

“Koharu didn’t save it either.”

She looked through Koharu’s phone left on top of her desk. Tanaka gave his contact information to the both of them, but they had erased it after pretending they saved it.

Kyoko turned on the computer and went onto the Anger homepage. She has no choice but to find the guild’s contact to work up to Tanaka.

If she reveals her real name, Mizuki Kyoko, a few times, she will get in direct contact. The Anger guild members also know who the sisters are.

It is obvious that around now, Koharu and the Lifers will have gone into the facility to buy time. There is no room to hesitate. Time is urgent.

She wrote the number on a piece of paper. It is naive to put all of her trust in Tanaka. Before calling him, she needs to get a few trustworthy Lifers together.

-[How, how many points did you say? Are you telling me to commit suicide right now?]

-[I’m sorry.]

-[Are you going with the elite of the Anger guild? Excuse me? You’re saying I’m the first?]

She called Lifers she had maintained relationships with in order.

They get scared and reject. Kyoko could understand them. It is the same as her saying that they need to put their lives on the line in saving Koharu, not for the mission itself.

People who risk their lives for others’ danger are only moralists who appear in books.

-[How about Anger?]

-[Aren’t you friendly with Mr. Tanaka of Anger? Try asking him.]

Looking for Anger guild conspicuously. Tanaka had let the bomb go off on a broadcasting station that he went to school with Koharu, is her fan, and loves her.

For a few days, Koharu's phone did not stop vibrating. Tanaka does not care about others' personal lives more than he does of his own opinions.

Lifers got excited and thought that Anger would go into the mission because Tanaka explicitly expressed interest, but fell back once they realized that they are not confirmed to go in.

Kyoko looked at the phone number on her paper and hesitated. All types of thoughts passed through his mind. Is this right? Is there no one but him?

Kyoko went into Koharu's blog before calling. It is limited to private, so anyone who is not close with Koharu will only see a basic window.

It is full of photos of the two sisters. Koharu has a minor hobby. She likes to take pictures and upload them to her blog.

"I need to save her."

She made up her mind. She will go to Tanaka for the favor. She'll give him whatever he wants.

When Kyoko made up her mind and was about to call Anger guild, the message window blinked brightly. She subconsciously clicked on the window.

She saw a few spam messages. There are very few because there are few visitors on the blog. However, there was a strange message in the midst.

-[Koharu, this is Pails. I received your message. I'm answering very late, aren't I?]

-[I ignored it, thinking that it was spam. I'll give you my response first. I would welcome you as a fixed party. It's just the 2 of us here, my close friend and myself.]

-[After checking, send me a message. If you get in contact through my helper's name Odin, I'll respond right away. We were short on members as it is!]

"Pails? Pails, I heard that name before."

Kyoko also played Life Mission. She is not the standard of a ranker, but she made her name known as a medic. It is an unpopular profession, so more respected.

She opened the sent window and read what Koharu wrote. She left some distance while seeming extremely friendly and going past acquaintances.

‘I think we’ll be gaining a good colleague.’

‘Who is it?’

‘Pails! Think about it. You know him too. Maybe you don’t remember because you only know him by his alias?’

Kyoko’s eyes shook. She remembered who Pails is.

“O, Overload!”

Once she recalled who it is, she remembered everything Koharu had said about him. Kyoko had also hunted as a party with him.

She crumpled up the phone number for Anger guild. She needs to contact Overload.

If it is him, he would rescue Koharu without conditions. He is her only hope.

Kyoko sent a message to Cha Jun Sung and requested to speak with Odin. It could not be missed since the PDA is on their wrists as if it is a watch.

-[Connecting.]

-[Odin has accepted Aphrodite’s request to speak.]

Kyoko clenched her fists. She got through the first obstacle. What follows is important.

-[Ms. Koharu?]

-[Do you remember me? I’m her little sister, Kyoko! Please, save my sister!]

The conversation started.

Chapter 61

Cha Jun Sung's expression is dark. It is ever since he picked up Kyoko's call. He saw the mission written on his PDA and started worrying.

-[Level D Mission: Slayer's Prison] [Goal: Annihilation]

-[Content: Slayers who became involved in crimes beat Lifers to death. A section survived, so they ran away to the prison but the Slayers followed them there and occupied it. Annihilate the Slayers and return the mission to its original state.]

-[Reward: 8000 points]

Annihilate the Slayers. According to Kyoko's explanation, there are 4 Slayers.

It is unbelievable. There are 2 adults and 2 children, and the large child is about 2.5m large. Its attacking power would fit on the weak side of level 3.

"Even after ignoring the small child, there are 3 others. Are the heavens testing me?"

He had not known it would be so difficult to put trustworthy party members together.

If he accepts this request, he would go in alone or maybe have Park Jin Hyuk follow him in. It is a dangerous mission.

If Cha Jun Sung himself had been involved, he would have used his connection to ask Lim Si Hyun. He can just repay as much as he receives.

Strictly speaking, Koharu is an outsider. It is impossible to drag them into it when he himself is deciding whether or not he will accept.

Tick tock tick tock!

The second, minute, and hour hands moved. 2 hours passed as he contemplated.

He asked Kyoko to give him time to think about it. It may feel like she is being dried out by the second, but he could not act as if he is choosing from a menu at a restaurant.

“Kyoko will know the spot, right? If they’re alive, we can join them.”

There are 13 survivors including Koharu. If they join, there is added power. The goal is to quit and leave the mission rather than complete it.

“What do I do about Jin Hyuk?”

He searched Zephyrus in the PDA list. Should he tell him? If he has the Head Hunter, he could kill a Slayer in one go. He had seen the power for himself.

-[What are you up to?]

-[Playing a game. When do we go into a level D mission? Regular life is boring.]

Good. Should he tell Park Jin Hyuk that the candidates to join their party are stuck in a mission and ask if he would like to go into an 8000 point mission to kill 4 Slayers?

He could not get himself to ask. The level is too high. Saying it is giving him a burden. He does not want to use this method, but he needs to get an idea of Park Jin Hyuk’s thoughts.

-[A party candidate is stuck in a mission. Her sister barely got out.]

-[We need to save her!]

-[It’s 8000 points. The mutant that comes out is the Slayer. I’m going to say no.]

He is not speaking. It is a natural reaction. The difficulty of the mission can be guessed from the reward points and mutant name. Cha Jun Sung was also speechless.

-[How trustworthy is the person?]

-[Do you know why I liked solo plays more than parties in the virtual version?]

-[Because it’s more comfortable?]

-[As you know, the game is where troublemakers hang out. They do all kinds of things with things we can’t see. Lying and backstabbing are common.]

Cha Jun Sung is the respected Overload, but his network is weak.

The people he meets just pass by him. He did not contact anyone in the reality version and put in the legwork to find Park Jin Hyuk.

He does not have light friendships where he exchanges light chatter. Koharu is the only friend who he thought he would be able to trust in reality.

-[But I can't risk my life for that.]

-[Let's go.]

Park Jin Hyuk accepted the mission. He is not saying it recklessly.

-[We could die.]

-[You said she's trustworthy. As long as we're in Life Mission, we're risking our lives whether it's a 5000 point mission or 8000 points.]

The number of points judges the difficulty, but they could get unlucky. Life and death is decided upon entering.

-[You were just testing me, right? You said we shouldn't go but were going to go by yourself?]

-[Hey.]

Park Jin Hyuk's answer is 60 points. 40 points were really that he did not want to go in.

-[Is it the 2 of us?]

-[There's a Japanese woman, Kyoko, who will also be going with us. She is that rare medic. I think I remember hearing that she goes to medical school.]

-[Her level?]

-[I didn't ask. But she is Amhu's little sister, so you think it'll be low? She'll have at least a few pieces of medical equipment from the level D store.]

Types of medical equipment are categorized as external, internal, and trauma injuries.

Of course, trauma injuries are expensive. How much was it? 400,000? 450,000? All intermediate procedures are possible without visiting the briefing room.

Arms and legs could be attached again if cut off. A medic cannot help but be respected.

What is more is that she is a medical student. If a doctor is a medic, he is led by a lot more medical knowledge than the average medic is.

-[Thanks.]

-[She's a candidate to join our party. Since she's my successor, she's worth saving.]

Reward points 8000, mission name is Slayer's Prison, Cha Jun Sung created a party. As soon as he created it, Park Jin Hyuk applied.

Woong!

Cha Jun Sung told Kyoko that they accepted. She was so happy she could jump, but was shocked that only 3 people including herself would be entering the mission.

However, it would take too much time to get in contact with Tanaka to get Anger's guild together. They would need to go like this.

-[Ms. Kyoko, can you hear me?]

-[Yes!]

They are tied as a party. Park Jin Hyuk and Kyoko could hear him.

-[Leave the mutants to us and lead us through the fastest way possible. Since you've gone in before, our chance of survival increases if all goes well.]

They will enter the mission, work out their operation, and move.

-[We apply.]

-[Application complete. You are being sent to level D mission Slayer's Prison. Mission start.]



Cha Jun Sung looked around him. There is nothing special. There are stairs going upstairs to lead outside at the end. It looks to be a subway station.

He went toward the stairs. It is a 1m rectangular iron door. It is a warehouse or bunker.

It is frustrating because all of the summons areas, indicated by the helpers, are blocked. They must think that completely closed areas are perfect.

Creak!

The door must be rusty because it creaked no matter how carefully he opened the door. It is enclosed in silence, so it rang far.

‘Is it a factory?’

Warm sunlight coming through a broken window shed light on machines that are used to cut through metal. It is covered in spiderwebs. It is evidence that they had been left for a long time.

Cha Jun Sung closed the iron door and went back to the people he was with. The moment he goes out, it is a fight for survival. They need to know what Kyoko knows.

“What do you think?”

“I looked over it roughly, but I think it’s a waste plant. I don’t sense any mutants.”

“Waste, waste plant?”

Kyoko stammered. Her eyes are full of fear. It is not hot, but there is a cold sweat on her forehead and she was anxious in fear.

“Kyoko, what’s wrong?”

“Including the waste plant, this entire area is the Slayers’ habitat.”

The force was passing this place when they were identified as intruders and were hunted.

When they were taking care of mutants here and there while moving, the Slayers killed Lifers in order on the outside. They avoided facing them cunningly.

“There’s no way the helper would have summoned Lifers to the mutants’ living room. This place is safe.”

The Slayers moved their habitat to the prison. What had been the most dangerous place is now the safest.

Mutants living in the vicinity will still think that Slayers live in the waste plant. They do not have a concept of moving like humans do.

“The mission purpose is in annihilation, but our goal is to save Koharu.”

To come up with an appropriate plan for their mission goal, it is important to identify the situation.

If they kill the 4 Slayers, they can complete the mission and rescue Koharu. However, the burden is large and the possibility is low.

It takes 1000 points to quit a level D mission. There is no disadvantage to quitting, so they need to end it as quickly as possible.

There is nothing to gain from being greedy in trying to catch the Slayers. If it becomes a situation where they need to kill, they will catch the Slayers.

It is the same for Koharu and the 12 Lifers who are hiding in the facility. He feels bad for them, but he will say it emphatically. He will not take care of them.

If they can keep up, they will live. If they cannot, they will die. He needs to keep in mind that they received someone’s request to save someone.

As the iron door opened, the entrance was completely opened. The outside is still peaceful. Kyoko’s anxiety did not go away and she hid amongst the people she came in with.

“Let’s go out. Jin Hyuk, guard Ms. Kyoko well. I’ll be the only one to act alone.”

If there is a reason to move alone, he will go around by himself. If there is no one to take care of, he is confident that he will not pull back if the situation calls for it.



The Wolf Kill hit their necks. Even if dozens of mutants come at him, they cannot overtake Cha Jun Sung. It is the limitation to a level 1.

Park Jin Hyuk helped him with the automatic crossbow. They refrained from using guns. It feels bad to use them, and they are not in enough trouble to use them.

A dog as large as a wolf pulled its tail down and ran away. It is its way of surviving.

50 to 55 of them came running, but the situation was handled within 10 minutes. He did not go after them to get a few dozen points.

He will kill them if they come at him, but he will let them go if they run away. They were attacked 5 times on the way to the prison. Each time, they gratefully took the points provided.

Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk took all of the mutants. If something made it out of the attack, they left it to Kyoko to handle. She shot them to death with her mild eyes.

"It's almost the prison."

"Yeah."

They are following an open road in the mountains. Both sides are mountains, so they could not see but it is good because the road is wide for attack.

If they go about 10km from here, there is a forked road. It is not far. If they choose the one on the right side, they can go up to the prison.

"Let's turn."

"You want to go in the opposite direction?"

"If you go through the front door, do you think they'll welcome us warmly?"

As they walked, Kyoko explained the configuration of the inside of the prison. The difference between hearing about it and seeing it for themselves is the difference between heaven and earth.

They need to stand from a distance and take it all in. They need to scope out and memorize suitable locations for battle and places to retreat to.

Zing!

Park Jin Hyuk used his vision goggles and Cha Jun Sung did not. If they are within range, they can identify the mutants 100% of the time but it is better to see the outside for themselves.

Kyoko held the SMG and went with Park Jin Hyuk around as a pair.

Before the forked road came out, they got over the safety net and entered the mountains. If the sun goes down, night will come for them. The atmosphere went down with the sun.

“Wait.”

“Be careful.”

Cha Jun Sung went to the front. He needs to examine the dynamics of the prison. Humans have worse vision at night than mutants do. They are at a disadvantage to make a move right now.

‘It’s dark.’

There was complete darkness. The prison looked like it had lost its vigor like a dead building. There are 4 Slayers and 13 Lifers in there.

Zing!

They changed the vision goggles to night mode. Detecting life form is not easy, but their sight became bright as if it is daylight. It is appropriate to check the prison.

The prison is 4 floors above ground and 1 below. The purpose of creating the building was to confine criminals, so the layout is different from an ordinary building.

It is separated into floors, but there is a layer. No matter what floor they look down from, they can see the 1st floor.

The facility is at the end of the basement. If they just get inside, defense is easy.

The key is how to get in. They would like to get in without the Slayers knowing, but that seems difficult and there is no reason why the Lifers would come out to greet them.

“Odin.”

He does not answer. If they go into the mission, there is limited functionality to the PDA.

Without the installed function, it is basically just a watch. But if the helper connects them to a Lifer in the facility? It is game out.

“Can’t you help me just once? You guys are god here.”

“Odin?”

“Asshole.”

Cha Jun Sung mumbled and cursed out Odin. Odin was listening.

Once becomes twice. He did not help because he knows that.

If the rumor spreads, it becomes lawless. They need to guard what they need to. Even though Cha Jun Sung is a great Lifer, it is unfair to give him preferential treatment.

“Just tell me if she’s alive or dead.”

Phew! How consistent! He keeps his mouth shut until the end. Cha Jun Sung gave up. He will need to find out on his own.

Chapter 62

The day is bright. The prison is clearly visible. It is the same, without a single change. They watched for a few hours, but a Slayer did not come out.

Park Jin Hyuk had installed the Head Hunter in a bush and aimed at the prison. Going in blindly is a suicide mission. They need to clean up the base.

Originally, Cha Jun Sung was going to handle capturing the Slayers. However, they could not find a way to get inside without reducing their numbers.

He will ignore the children and kill the adults if they come out with the explosive bomb. If that happens, the number of cases will increase. No matter how good the small child is, it can only be level 2.

The adults are scary, the baby is not. They are sure the large child is weaker than a Spectre. They can take on that much with the Wolf Kill.

If all 4 come out and go somewhere, that is an opportunity.

‘Jun Sung.’

‘Sh!’

Something jumped down from the 3rd floor window of the prison. 2 Slayers.

A female with its breasts sticking out and its reproductive organs inside, and a male that is 2 heads shorter. There is no way that can be the baby, and it must be the large child.

‘You guys are living beings too. I’m sure you don’t want to stay inside to wait for death.’

It seems each child has an adult sticking to it. The large child has the female, the baby has the male. They are distributing their attacking power.

With most mutants, the males are stronger than the females. That is why the male is paired with the inexperienced baby. The large child could take care of itself.

‘Look how intimidating.’

Park Jin Hyuk briefly assessed his first impression of the female Slayer. Kyoko put her head down and got on her stomach as soon as she saw the Slayer.

‘What kinds of blades are that big?’

‘Those aren’t used only for attack. It also acts as a shield.’

The female’s blade is large enough to cover Park Jin Hyuk. It is 3cm thick, but it is used to shield an attack in addition to killing enemies.

‘The adult won’t do. I can definitely kill the large child.’

If he just hits the female, the Slayers’ power will be reduced by 30%...

‘Shall I shoot?’

‘Do you think you can hit it?’

If they just move as they are doing now, he can hit it 100%. The problem when that the Slayers hear something and react. The silencer cannot be installed for the explosive bomb.

‘Give me a sniper rifle too. I’ll shoot the large child. You shoot the female.’

‘Wow!’

Park Jin Hyuk was pleased with Cha Jun Sung’s suggestion, and pulled a sniper rifle out of the space compression bag. It is what he used until he bought the Head Hunter.

‘Don’t breathe when you shoot. Your aim moves. Pull the trigger slowly.’

Park Jin Hyuk told him the basic methods. Cha Jun Sung laid next to him and aimed at the child. If they kill 2, they could even fight the rest face-to-face.

Of course, it is not really going to happen like that. Are they crazy to go running to a fully grown male?

‘Jun Sung, give me the signal.’

‘Hang on.’

Park Jin Hyuk is ready to shoot at any time. The Slayers were getting fresh air on the lawn of the prison. Their movement is extremely limited.

‘3, 2, 1. Shoot!’

Tang!

Pung!

The bullet and explosive bomb fired and flew hundreds of meters.

The bullet is faster than its sound. The Slayer’s instincts awakened and realized that something is coming at them. They scattered to the sides.

Kiak!

Cha Jun Sung’s bullet penetrated the child’s chest. He had aimed for its head, but the aim moved when he pulled the trigger. He still hit a vital spot.

The nature of a bullet is to rotate, so it will not be able to survive.

“No way!”

Park Jin Hyuk’s voice grew louder. The female brandished its blades in the direction of the explosive bomb. The bomb flew up at the sky.

Bang!

It blew up in the air. No matter how much it is slower than a bullet, it is unbelievable that it could bat at it like a baseball player to hit a homerun.

It was like watching a circus act. The female adult was not safe either. Its blade was broken, the white bone showed through, and blood was flowing out.

Just as there are failures in item production, there are bomb misfires. They had been unlucky and got caught in that percentage. If not, the bomb would have gone off the second it touched the blade.

A window broke and the male and baby jumped down. Cha Jun Sung and the others quickly packed up their gear. Their location will have been identified. They need to get away.

The female points to the mountain where they are hiding. The male goes running at an incredibly fast speed. It would not even take 10 seconds to go hundreds of meters.

The female goes toward the large child. It is staying alive out of its tough nature, but it is dying because its chest has been ripped apart.

Eventually, it died. The female let out a sad roar and became angry.

It fixed the wobbling blade with the other. It cannot cannot fix it, but can stick it back on with its resilient nature so it does not drop off.

As its blood boils, the blade sticks. The female's muscle shrinks back.

It has enough nutrients for this. Even if it cannot use the blades right now, it can move. The baby is prowling next to the large child.

There is an understanding of family even among mutants. This is one of the things that they have in common with people.

The female repaired its blade and followed the male with the baby. Only the large child's corpse was left on the prison lawn.

While Cha Jun Sung was making noise outside, the surviving Lifers inside the facility realized that they had help.



-[The mutant tracking has halted. It is possible to quit the mission.]

The 4 Slayers had left the prison. The adults and baby were out for revenge for the death of their older child.

When their attention went elsewhere, the lock holding the Lifers was undone.

"Is this for real?"

“Has a new force entered? Then this is our chance to quit!”

It was short, but they heard the gun, bomb explosion, and Slayers’ roar. Their saviors had appeared after a few days trapped in the facility.

“I’m leaving!”

“I don’t want to be here anymore!”

The 2 Lifers who had shown anxiety quickly requested to quit.

This annoyed Koharu and she held her dagger to them.

“You’re saying it’s okay to abandon the force that’s here to save you so you can save yourself?”

“You said they’re here to save us? How do you know that! It’s 8000 points! I don’t need to see to realize that it’s a large guild coming in for a high level mission!”

Do these idiots think? Fortunately, the other Lifers were able to think, and understood what Koharu was saying.

“It makes sense but it’s only been 2 days since this happened. If we do it by hour, about 50? To find a prison on top of a mountain in that time?”

They did not know where the summons area is, but they were abnormally quick in finding them. It is as though someone escorted them here.

“I’m sure you remember that my little sister quit the mission 2 days ago?”

“You don’t think!”

The Lifers drew a picture of the situation. If she were to put a force together, it is possible that it would take her 2 days to come back.

“Don’t be stupid! Is your sister that great? Is she part of some great guild or something?”

“I’m Mizuki Koharu. I’m sure you know that Tyrant of Anger is a huge fan of mine... Do you get the gist of who is outside?”

100 people entered. Though 86 people died, not one of those people did not recognize model Koharu.

“Anger is here!”

“Tyrant Tanaka!” “You think they’ll be happy about it if they came all the way here to save us and we just went back?”

Koharu was pressuring them with power, but her heart was sinking. Kyoko had gone to Tanaka for help in rescuing her.

What will he ask for in exchange? She could guess his sinister intentions.

These Lifers would be benefiting from Kyoko and her sacrifice. She could not let them go this easily.

She will hang on to them until the mission is handled. Even if she has to use force to do so.

Tang tang!

Chuchuk!

While the Lifers were giving their opinions on the situation, someone knocked on the door. Everyone held their weapons and put their guards up.

Chapter 63

Koharu!

She heard a voice she is familiar with. Koharu carefully went to the door. Beyond the bulletproof window was Kyoko with tears in her eyes.

Koharu opened the door. Her sister had really come to rescue her.

“Koharu!”

“Kyoko!”

They hugged each other. They had only been apart for 2 days, but time was not important. They had thought that they would never get to see each other again.

“Why are you here!”

“What do you mean why! I came to save you!”

“Ahem! Sorry to cut you both off, but where are Anger’s elite?”

“Elite?”

“Hasn’t Tyrant of Anger come to save Ms. Koharu? We’ll help if we can to kill the Slayers.”

Kyoko realized what he is saying. Koharu and the Lifers are mistaken in thinking that the Anger guild is here to save them. They will be surprised if she tells them the truth.

“Tyrant isn’t here! I was going to ask him first, but the heavens helped! Koharu, you know who came to save you?”

“Who is it? I don’t know another guild that would come to help me.”

“Overload!”

“Huh?”

“Pails! Overload came into the mission to save you!”

Koharu’s eyes were full of emotion. She had gone into a mission because she had not received a response. But he had come here to rescue her.

Whispers.

The Lifers could not understand what is going on. Overload came instead of Tyrant? Is that the same person from Life Mission?

What relationship does he have with Koharu? They could not get any information out of the sisters’ conversation. They had not even realized that Amhu is next to them.

Tanaka invaded Koharu’s private life but did not reveal the fact that she is Amhu. He wants to have the secret to himself.

“Pails killed the large child and is luring the adults and baby away!”

“How many people came?”

“3 people including me! We need to hurry up and help them! They need you!”

Koharu thought that it is like Cha Jun Sung. He does not like for things to be cumbersome, so he does not use his influence. Nothing is still impossible for him.

“Wh, what? 3 people?”

“Since you’re here, you’re saying that 2 people are holding the Slayers?”

The Lifers looked shocked. Killing the large child is impressive. But what are they going to do about the adults? It will be difficult with these members.

“The female Slayer is wounded as well! Only the male is healthy!”

If they can lure the Slayers away, they may not be able to complete the mission but they would be able to quit. They just need to help out a little.

“Bring me to them!”

“Okay!”

Koharu hesitated as she was leaving. The Lifers are not moving. They did not move at all as if their feet are nailed down to the ground.

“You’re not going?”

“Including the 2 people outside, we’re just 16 people! Those guys killed 86 of us!”

“Going out is basically suicide!”

“You can go help him!”

Koharu’s expression became dreary. Cha Jun Sung came to save her, but they were being rescued as well. Had they forgotten?

“If they hadn’t lured the Slayers away, we would still be trapped without being able to quit the mission. Is that how you take someone’s grace?”

“That, we’re thankful for that but they came in to rescue Koharu in the first place!”

“Then that means you should stay here since he only came to save me?”

The Lifers shut their mouths. They know that they are indebted to Cha Jun Sung but it does not feel right to go out and help. It is a selfish instinct.

“Who will help?”

“Me.”

“I’ll go as well.”

“I can’t live with a debt.”

3 people willingly volunteered. The other 9 put their heads down and avoided Koharu’s eyes.

“I’ll keep your names and helper names in mind. I hope I never see you in a mission again. I won’t leave you alone.”

Koharu is certain in the ties she makes and cuts. She treats her people well but shows no mercy to her enemies.

There is a reason why she is called Amhu. There is a reason for everything.

“Let’s go.”

Papat!

The 5 Lifers including the sisters, left the facility. The remaining 9 people were ashamed, but showed happiness at having survived.

Boom!

“What’s that sound?”

“How should I know?”

“Let’s just request to quit. I’m going to go back and catch up on sleep.”

They could hear a heavy object fall down, but the 9 people ignored it. They had not returned yet because they were caught up in the conversation. They just want to hurry up and get back.

A Lifer who was going to request to quit, unintentionally turned his head. There are times when people get the strange feeling that someone is looking at them.

“Ack!”

“Slayer!”

As his throat was slit, blood poured out. The Lifers were stunned and took steps backwards. The female Slayer entered the facility.

It had followed Cha Jun Sung, but realized that it needs more nutrients because of its broken blade. The male went anyway, so they will be dead.

Hunting as it wandered around had not been feasible because it was in bad condition.

It decided to catch and eat the prey locked up in the facility. The security is normally

thorough, so it is difficult to get inside.

However, it is now wide open. On its way here, it had seen 5 prey leaving. It was going to kill them, but left them alone.

There is a fairly strong female amongst them. If they fight, its wound will get worse. Why would it leave the weak prey and go for the strong ones?

“Shoot it!”

“Die!”

Tutututu!

Papat!

The female’s wide and thick blade protected its upper and lower body while it was waved around the inside of the facility. It was so fast that the shape was faded.

The bullets could not hit the target. Even if they hit, they were blocked by the blade.

The surprised Lifers kept firing their guns. The facility is narrow. Since they are shooting in a place like that, it is inevitable that they hit allies.

Their limbs were cut off and their guts spilled out. The tranquil room had become a slaughterhouse. The Lifers’ dreams of going back came crashing down.



Cha Jun Sung and Park Jin Hyuk had the invisibility screen over them and did not even breathe.

They used the odorless spray but it only gets rid of the smell. If they want to deceive all of the Slayers’ senses, they need to be careful with their breath as well. They spared their conversation too.

If they whisper, the sound of their speech will go out. They refrained from PDA chatting. They needed to avoid even grazing their bodies. They need to stay still as if they are corpses.

Kung!

The male is waving his blades around randomly from a distance about 10m away.

A tree that both of a person's arms can wrap around, was cut through. It is a monster with incredible cutting force that makes them speechless.

'It is much stronger than the Spectre.'

It is stronger than the female Spectre. It repelled an unexploded bomb.

An explosive bomb really is slower than a bullet. There is still no reason for it to be easy to reflect the bomb. The female's ability to deflect the bomb was half luck.

However, it is proof that the Slayer's reflexes are outstanding.

It is as though it hit a fly that was flying around in its face. In the case of a human, there would be no luck and he would have died as soon as the bomb was shot at him.

'This mission has become 8000 points because of the male. The culprit is him!'

It looks large even from afar, but it looks to be about 3.5m up close. In that state, it could fight with a level 4.

The only disadvantage that the Slayer has is its stamina. If they sustain that, all of their specifications are similar.

'It's good the female went back.'

The male sniffed around and changed its direction to go back down to the prison. It is a language that they cannot understand. It is good if they can reduce the numbers that they need to fight.

This is Cha Jun Sung's misunderstanding. The female is out of the picture, but there is no answer. The male has the strength of 2 Spectres by itself.

If he hits that blade with the Wolf Kill, he could cut it but his arm would be destroyed at the impact. The strength of a weapon and arm are completely different.

The male could not find Cha Jun Sung and hollered loudly. It did not see, smell, or hear

him. Among mutants, there are those that identify heartbeat sounds.

Slayers are on the side of having better hearing, but it is not good enough for that.

The male that was looking for Cha Jun Sung pricked his ears. It could hear something from the bottom of the mountain. There was still no smell, but he could hear it.

The male took the baby and went to the top of a tree. It is to check the identity.

She got a view and looked down. There is prey looking up at the mountain from a wide opening. Cha Jun Sung thought, 'Why is he doing that?'

Koharu and her group wanted to go up the mountain, but there are bushes everywhere. They hesitate because it is an unfavorable environment. It is perfect for the Slayers to ambush them.

If they fight, an open space is perfect. They would not suffer a surprise attack.

The male considered going down. It could tell by instinct. Those people are not the ones that killed the child. But they are of the same class.

His consideration did not go for very long. This is a sinister place where the large child died. It would need to organize the situation here and move its location to the original place where it was quiet.

Chapter 64

-[Pails?]

Kyoko radioed in a few times but there was no response from Cha Jun Sung. The radio function on the PDA is delivered through the helmet, so there is no need to worry that it leaks out.

He needs to speak in order to respond, but he could be detected by the male. He can hear it. It is just a situation where he cannot respond.

“There’s no response.”

“It’s okay. He won’t be able to respond because the Slayer is nearby.”

If they had started battling in the mountains, they would have heard noise. This quiet atmosphere would not have lasted. It seems they are hiding.

The sisters and the Lifers assigned each person a direction to create a lookout for where the Slayers might come from. They are prone to surprise attacks. They need to stay alert.

Their view is clear, so they can prepare for any approaching danger.

They will be strengthened if they combine with Cha Jun Sung, but they do not have the nerve to enter. Nature is an unfriendly environment for people who are used to civilization.

A massive body weighing hundreds of kg is stepping on the ground. The heavy footsteps make noise. The Lifers all looked to one direction.

Their mouths go dry. They could see the male clearly. They are about 60 to 70m apart, and it does not come any closer.

The male drew a circle around the Lifers. It seems to be calculating something in its head.

“It’s measuring the distance.”

“Distance?”

“Since it followed the force, it’ll have seen a lot of guns and know what it’s like!”

The Slayer’s intellect is that of an elementary school student’s. A bullet goes through trees, rocks, and the ground. It makes anything in its radius a mess.

It understands that it cannot get hit. It cannot see the bullet, but it has the ability to detect the direction of the muzzle.

Slayer is more about the body, so it is the type that wins with speed rather than strength.

The male was going around in circles and stopped moving with its back to the prison.

“Our place to retreat is blocked.”

“The Slayer in the front, mountains in the back? Is it trying to stifle us?”

The prison is blocked. If they are pushed back in battle, the only place they can go is the mountains. The moment they go in, it is the male’s world. It had thrown them far out.

Another change happened. It is an unwelcome change for the Lifers.

The female walks out of the prison, covered in blood. On its blade is a Lifer from the prison.

“Save... Me.”

The Lifer struggled to put his hand out. Unfortunately, they cannot take the hand.

Chills ran down the spine of Lifers who followed Koharu. It is a terrible situation as it is, but they would have already been dead if they had remained in the facility.

The blade came out. The Lifer’s eyes rolled back as he went lifeless.

The female recovered its ability to fight after eating meat and regaining the nutrients

it had lost. It had gone back to its original state.

The only weapons they can trust are their guns. The male went farther away in order to avoid the bullets. It is a distance at which they can guard themselves from the Lifers.

It is impossible to take on both adults between 5 people. They cannot expect to live. Even Kyoko and Koharu who had gone through the 2nd stage of body modifications cannot last more than a few minutes.

The sisters' physical ability is half that of Cha Jun Sung. Aspects like their muscles, bone structure, height, and weight are significantly inferior to that of men. It is a woman's limit.

Their abilities were proportionately converted in the virtual version, so men and women were equal. But this is reality. There is a difference.

There is no need to think of it being unfair. Just as mutants and humans are different, men and women are different. Women cannot catch up to men in regards to their bodies.

The female speaks to the male. The male looks from the Lifers to the mountains. Then it protected its vital spots with both of its blades.

An object came flying from a distance to go through the large child, and broke the female's blade. They relayed this to each other in their own language.

The baby that was hiding in the trees, could not endure the frustration and came down. The young ones never listen to their parents.

"Shoot that one first!"

A Lifer looking in the direction of the baby, held his gun. They cannot avoid battle. Then they will have to kill the baby and reduce their numbers.

When the Lifer was about to shoot the baby, the male ran towards it as though flying, while the female went at the Lifers.

The male covered the front of the baby and raised its blades diagonally.

The bullets bounced off the blade and started flinging out. It is an awkward angle to

shoot at, so they only left a few scrapes. They were just letting the powerful attack flow past.

The baby listened to the male and ran away to the prison. The male blocked its back so it would not be attacked. The baby needs to go away so they can properly fight.

The female's blade scratches the surface. Their skin rips and scars form if they are hit. Koharu, Kyoko, and the shooting Lifers rolled on the floor.

It is not an attack that they can easily avoid. They cannot even see the swinging blade. If they feel like it is coming, they need to throw their bodies out of the way.

It is trying to rip them apart. The purpose is to reduce their fire power.

If it focuses on 1 person, he or she would be easy to kill. But that means that the other Lifers would have room to act, making it possible to be attacked.

Mutants do not lay out a great scheme to fight. They are born with an instinct to fight that humans do not have.

Koharu avoided the blade and cut through the female's thigh with her twin daggers.

A slight trace – weapons like daggers cannot leave much of a wound because of its thick flesh and muscles.

The female paid more attention to the powerful Koharu than it did to the other Lifers.

It is sleek and tricky. The blades aim for her neck. As they grew close, she put her head down to avoid them. A piece of her hair was cut and fell to the floor.

The male escaped the shower of bullets and went to help the female. Since they have scattered the prey, they just have to go and catch them.

Papat!

Pew pew!

The male ran away before reaching the Lifers when it received a signal of danger. A bullet came from the direction it was going to move in.

It came from the mountains. Park Jin Hyuk's fire support. The Slayers were wary of the mountains. They will not fall to the same trap twice.

Pew!

Papat!

A few more shots fired, but the male put more distance between the mountain and itself to identify the direction of the bullets. It only needs 0.1 seconds to react.

"It's a scam. How does it get out of the way?"

"It's not looking to avoid the shots. It knows that it's the target, so it's moving its body to avoid the flow. It's like a reflex."

That is also why it is putting more distance. If it is close, it cannot react. It gets hit before it can. It needs to maintain the minimum distance in order to respond.

"Keep shooting?"

"It can't attack the Lifers because you're supporting them. If we weren't here, I'm sure they would have been ripped apart already."

It is difficult to detect the Slayer's movement with the inferior senses of humans. People would die without knowing where the attack was coming from.

Cha Jun Sung put the Wolf Kill to his hand. Park Jin Hyuk is enough for the diversion. With the greatest amount of power, he must go out and work his body.

"Let's just make them go back."

It is important to show that they are not easy prey. Even if they cannot kill the Slayers, they could quit the mission.

Chapter 65

“Hurry up and go rescue them.”

“I was going to go.”

Cha Jun Sung ran down the mountain. The slope is steep, but he ran as though on flat ground. His lower body strength can take the shock.

He landed on the ground and went at the male with the Wolf Kill. The vibration function was on and it caught solid.

“Hey!”

He held the Wolf Kill with both of his hands and twisted his body to swing it. There is screaming in the wind. The male blocked it with its blades.

About $\frac{1}{3}$ of the blade cut off as it collided with the Wolf Kill, and blood poured out. The Wolf Kill stopped in the middle due to a lack of power, but it kept cutting because of the vibration.

The male did not take the Wolf Kill out, and lifted its blade the way it was. Cha Jun Sung's body lifted into the air and struck out in that state.

“Huk!”

Pat!

Cha Jun Sung let go of the Wolf Kill and tumbled to the floor. Fortunately, the Wolf Kill had come out and fallen as well with the force.

“Pails!”

“It's been a while.”

When Koharu approached, Cha Jun Sung greeted her. How long has it been since they had seen each other? The last time was a few months before the virtual version was

halted, so it must be about 9 months.

A bubble formed on the male's blade as it had for the female, to heal its wound.

It ripped and ate the Lifer that the female had killed. The female may not have brought him for this purpose, but he had come in to good use.

"Is that a weapon with vibrating function?"

"Yes."

"Of course! I thought Pails would be ahead of the rankers!"

Koharu had given all of the points to Kyoko while going through missions, so she had not gathered enough to buy a vibrating blade.

On the other hand, a medic like Kyoko made it so that she could recover most injuries without going through the briefing room. There is no reason to use points on treatment.

As she does not fall too short on points, she will be able to buy a vibrating weapon soon if she works on missions diligently. To use her twin daggers, she needs 2 of everything.

Pew!

The male fell back when he was about to attack Cha Jun Sung. It was due to Park Jin Hyuk's timely defense. Since he shot from far away, it must be very annoyed.

But what could he do? He did not want to go into the Slayer's stomach.

"You three there. If we put a sniper on you, will you be able to take on the female?"

Just by appearances, they can tell that he had gone through the 1st stage of body modifications. They need to distribute the power. He cannot fight the male alone. He must fight it with Koharu.

"We'll try it."

-[Jin Hyuk, shoot only the female. Ms. Koharu and I will hold the male.]

-[Roger!]

Park Jin Hyuk turned the muzzle of the gun to the female and shot 1 as a fire risk.

The female ran around. It looked at the mountains and shrieked. The male could pay no mind because it was fighting with the 2 powerful prey.

Should they send the baby? They cannot do that. If the prey on top of the mountain is strong, the baby will be killed.

The female made up its mind. As long as it covers the vital spots, it will not from a few shots.

It will kill the 4 prey, go into the mountains, and kill the rest. If the male kills those 2 before then, the situation becomes even better.

“Oh, it’s coming!”

Tatang!

The female tried to take over the Lifers at a fast speed.

It is faster than a cheetah. Even if they shoot at it, they hit the place it passed. If they could get the shot, it deflected it with its blade. Kyoko also helped the Lifers.

She takes on the fight against Slayers as much as she can. There is nothing to gain from not doing anything.

Pew pew!

Park Jin Hyuk stops the female’s approach. Because he is there, it’s movement becomes complicated.

On the other side, Cha Jun Sung and Koharu put their strength together to fight the male. Even though they are fighting it from the front and back, it is taking them on. It is even pushing them back.

“We need to chase them away.”

From the way the Slayers are acting, they are so angry that they will not fall back until

they get to the conclusion of this fight.

He thought as he fired. It is avoiding all of the shots while pressuring the Lifers. He needs to find its weakness. Weakness... Weakness? The baby! How do they get to the baby?

He he.

Park Jin Hyuk smiled sneakily and installed an explosive bomb in the Head Hunter. He took dozens of explosive bombs from the space compression bag and placed them next to him.

“I’ll make the prison collapse. Let’s see if you guys don’t leave and stick it out.”

It is as powerful as a grenade. He will need to take the outer wall down bit by bit.

He cannot kill the baby. If he does that, it is obvious that they will go crazy. He needs to make them feel the danger. ‘If you don’t go, your adorable baby will die.’

“Am I a genius?”

Pang!

The first shot is fired. This action is the starting point of extreme fear for the opponent as well as a way to let them know that there is a new system.



Pang!

The female Slayer was more surprised than the Lifers were by the deafening noise of the explosive bomb.

It could avoid the blast somehow, but it could feel the danger in its body. It had been surprised when the object flung into the air had exploded.

Judging from the tremor in the air, it would die if hit without protection.

The female yelled to warn the male, and put as much distance between itself and the Lifers as quickly as it could. If the Lifers come at it, it could just move to avoid them.

However, the attack did not come to the male and female. This series of events had occurred within seconds, and the explosive bombs were going off in a strange place.

Bang!

Pung pung!

The prison entrance exploded. The following bomb blew up a place where the baby could come out of. The female realized its prey's intentions.

Kiak!

The baby is howling. It is looking for its parents, saying it is scared and asking where they are.



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